



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

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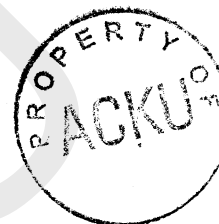
OCTOBER 1988

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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The same day, (September 11), a TASS news release stated that: "Rebels blew off power transmission line supporting structures in the area of the Sorubi hydro-electric power station and the Bazar-e-Payan village in Kabul province".

Damages inflicted to Afghan Airforce

Unusual coverage were given to 20 events involving the Afghan Airforce recently. One in the Mujahideen attack on Kabul airport on September 2. The Soviet Television carried detailed report and footage of the event:

(From the "Vremya" newscast): We have just received via satellite a report from our correspondent. He reports from the scene:

(M. Leshchinskiy, identified by screen caption): It took place at 1505 Kabul time. It occurred at the airport during ordinary operations: Planes were taking off and landing, including many passenger planes, according to schedule. Then the first rocket explosions were heard. You can see buildings are burning over there, on the edge of the airport. A helicopter is almost completely burned up over here. Fortunately, there was no one in it and no one was hurt.

In spite of this obvious evidence of barbaric bombardments which do not stop for a single day, in the West there are continuing attempts to fan rumours that such bombardments are being carried out by the Soviet Army. Logic and human reason are impotent here. How can we fire on our own people? The flames from the warehouses for fuel and other combustible materials hit by the missiles could spread at any moment to where the planes are kept and several shells also exploded. Soviet pilots, technicians, and soldiers guarding the airport immediately joined in the struggle to save military and civilian craft, (video shows Leshchinskiy looking at his watch beside a burned out helicopter, still smoldering, black smoke in the background beyond blue and white marked planes. Buildings in the distance are in flames and smoke and the helicopter are seen in close-up shot. An Aeroflot plane is seen just behind through the smoke. A camouflaged plane with the number 28 visible on the side can be seen. Soldiers are dousing the flames of a hangar or warehouse and a military helicopter, camouflaged, with the word "dangerous" in Russian in red on the side and the number 4 is parked, small fires by a wall can be seen some distance behind it).

(Leshchinskiy): At that time, densely populated districts of Kabul were also shelled. All in all, almost 50 rockets fell on the city. The result is tragic. Nine people are dead, among them five children. Sixteen children are injured (video shows Leshchinskiy talking to the colonel as a military truck tows a helicopter off screen behind them. Shots of

more fire fighting operations; a medical helicopter marked with a red cross is seen. A final overview of the airport shows smoke in the background and air traffic control radar monitors).

Kunduz Incident

The Soviet and Afghan media also reported the downing of a Soviet transport aircraft in which senior officials of Afghan Airforce were killed. The following is the text of a September 9 TASS despatch:

Kabul September 9 TASS — A US-made Stinger rocket hit an Afghan Airforce transport plane, AN-32, yesterday, killing 16 people.

The plane was downed by insurgents near the city of Kunduz, Bakhtar news agency reported today.

Among 12 passengers on board the plane were Maj. Gen. M.I. Nuri, ammunition supply chief at the Afghan Defence Ministry, Maj. Gen. A.A. Razmenda, first deputy chief prosecutor of the armed forces, and Col. M. Hasan, chief of the political department of the territorial troops at the republic's Defence Ministry.

Four crew members are among the casualties.

Synthesis of Mujahideen Reports

Spin Buldak

On September 8, Spin Buldak, a Kabul regime cantonment opposite Chaman and Khojak Pass in Pakistan, fell to the Mujahideen. It was the headquarters of turncoat Afghan militia commander Ismatullah Achakzai. It had been under Mujahideen siege for about two weeks. Just before its fall, several hundred militiamen defected to Mujahideen and Ismatullah fled. Mujahideen picked up some tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery guns and mortars, besides other military hardware and supplies. Soviet-made aircraft bombarded the Spin Buldak district in retaliation, killing no less than 150 men, women and children.

Asmar Cantonment

On September 30, the important Asmar cantonment fell to Mujahideen after about two months of intermittent fighting in Kunar. The fall of Asmar would make Mujahideen communications with Badakhshan, Laghman and Parwan easier. The Mujahideen said that they control the whole of Kunar province with the exception of Asadabad, Khas Kunar and Surkani. The fall of Asmar was facilitated by the capture of Sheegal on September 26.

Khairkot

Kabul regime strong points in Paktika, Katwaz and Khairkot, were taken on September 12. A week later Mujahideen entered and occupied the provincial capital, Sharna. The only sizeable town still in regime control in Paktika is Urgoon.

Kabul-Paghman

On September 1, 7 and 12, Soviet-Kabul forces launched several military offensives to dislodge Mujahideen from vantage points in the surrounding areas of the capital Kabul. During these attacks they used both the land and air forces.

On September 21, Mujahideen entered Paghman city after eliminating the military posts of Kot Satara, Balala Mala, Deh Kohban, Mian-khel and Baghe Arbab. Earlier they had also taken Mir Bachakot which lies on the Salang highway. It could not be ascertained if they retained it.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimroz (also bordering Iran)

Mujahideen sources: On September 13, Mujahideen captured the sub-divisional headquarters of Khashrud. Two tanks and several armoured vehicles of the Kabul forces were destroyed. Mujahideen also seized an arms and ammunition depot.

On September 19, Mujahideen frustrated a Kabul forces counter-attack to 'recapture' Chaharborjak district. The invading troops were pushed back to Zaranj, capital of Nimroz.

According to one report "with the exception of Zaranj all districts of Nimroz are under Mujahideen control".

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen after fierce fighting with the communist forces of the Kabul regime captured the Khashrud area of Nimroz province recently.

The Mujahideen deployed in Nimroz carried out operations against the Kabul regime troops in Sheran, Shahlala, and Sanak areas, in Nimroz province during the last fortnight.

In the fighting the Mujahideen killed a large number of Kabul regime troops and destroyed 10 tanks and armoured personnel carriers of the Kabul regime.

The report adds that during these operations, the Mujahideen captured five security posts of the Kabul regime and eliminated major part of 21 military division of the enemy.

Reports add that in retaliation, the enemy resorted to aerial bombing and artillery attacks on the civilian population of the area as a result of which a quantity of harvested wheat was set ablaze and a number of cattle heads killed (23 September 1988).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On September 2, Mujahideen attacked security post in and around Lashkargah, headquarters of Hilmand province.

On September 6, Mujahideen ambushed a mobile column of Kabul forces near Shahrab. A battalion of enemy troops surrendered to Mujahideen.

On September 10, Mujahideen attacked an airfield near Lashkargah. Seventeen regime troops were killed and two buildings demolished during the attack.

On September 22, Soviet-made fighter planes fired rockets on villages near Grishik, 120 kilometres from Qandahar on the Qandahar-Herat highway. Thirteen civilians were killed and 48 injured.

VOA: Here is a report on Afghan situation sent by our correspondent Irfan Ghazi from Islamabad a shortwhile ago:

In Afghanistan, Afghan Mujahideen have besieged an important city of Hilmand province, Girishk, and in Qandahar province hundreds of militiamen have defected to Mujahideen. Girishk city is located at main highway between Qandahar and Herat some 125 kilometres in the West of Qandahar. Sources of resistance movements living in Quetta say that the Mujahideen had started the operation to besiege Girishk city on August 17 and reports received on September 4 indicated that the siege is so tight that all routes for government troops besieged in the city have been closed and they are being provided reinforcement through helicopters. This report could not be confirmed from independent sources. In a message Mujahideen's Commanders say that they seized a military camp located in eastern part of Girishk city on September 4. On this occasion many Afghan troops were killed in the fierce fighting and 90 of them were captured by the Mujahideen. Four Mujahideen also lost their lives, while fifteen others sustained injuries. The message says that four tanks and six trucks were burnt by the rocket fire of Mujahideen while seventy klashnikovs, two mortar guns, five heavy machine guns, two guns of seven millimetres and a huge quantity of ammunition were also seized by the Mujahideen (7 September, 1988).

Latest reports reaching Quetta and Islamabad from Hilmand say, the Mujahideen have captured the second largest city of Hil-

mand province, Girishk and only the provincial capital and a nearby town are left in the hands of the government. Girishk is situated on the strategic Qandahar-Herat highway. It leads to the Soviet border to extreme north. There is a possibility that the Mujahideen have now gained full control over the adjoining Uruzgan province in the north of Hilmand (Radio Report Urdu: 13 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: BIA reports from Hilmand that as a result of repeated demands of the residents of the province a group of extremists which was involved in devastation was crushed by the security forces. The report adds that in this operation forty extremists were killed and twenty others were severely injured (News—English: 1 September 1988).

Radio Moscow: In repulsing attacks on the security points in Nahr-e-Saraj area, Hilmand province, 45 rebels were killed and 50 wounded (5 September, 1988).

Reports from Kabul say that anti-government forces are concentrating their units in Hilmand province in the country's south with a view to seizing power there (News—English: 22 September, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 21 August: Mujahideen consolidated its control on Arghandab district which was taken after a prolonged struggle of more than two months.

Fresh Soviet troops are reported to have been flown into Qandahar Airport Security Zone which has become all the more vulnerable after the fall of Arghandab district.

23 August: Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Baba Sahib dam and severely damaging it. Water supply has been cut to Arghandab and Dand districts.

31 August: Mujahideen captured security posts at Silo and Gongyan. Five tanks, two trucks and four howitzers were taken by the Mujahideen from these posts. Over 110 Kabul soldiers surrendered to Mujahideen.

Mujahideen also attacked Kabul regime troops and positions in Spin Buldak area. A helicopter was downed in Spin Buldak area.

On September 2, Mujahideen eliminated a security post at Qandigul. The enemy lost about 70 soldiers. Mujahideen also attacked transport on the Qandahar-Herat road and certain isolated military positions in the direction of Arghandab.

On September 4, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime positions in Spin Buldak area. Ten militiamen were killed and one security post destroyed. A number of Kabuli soldiers and militiamen defected to Mujahideen.

On September 6, Mujahideen inflicted severe losses on Kabul regime forces in Spin Buldak area. An Afghan News Agency (ANA) correspondent, Mohammad Shfiq, was killed during enemy aerial attacks on Mujahideen positions. Ismatullah, Kabul regime's militia commander has reportedly evacuated some of his posts in the Spin Buldak area.

On September 8, Spin Buldak fell to persistent Mujahideen attacks. Over two hundred 'puppet' troops were killed. Mujahideen picked up six hundred rifles, some tanks and armoured personnel carriers, artillery guns and mortars besides other military hardware and supplies. Soviet-made aircraft bombarded the Spin Buldak district "in retaliation", killing no less than 150 men, women and children. More than 150 Mujahideen were killed and about an equal number were injured in this operation. Two Arabs fighting for the Mujahideen were also martyred. One was a Palestinian and the other a Saudi. The fall of Spin Buldak coincided with the 'slipping over' of some 300 Achackzai militiamen of Ismatullah to the side of the Mujahideen. They came along with their families.

On September 11, Mujahideen fired on Qandahar Airport with long range rockets hitting atleast two aircrafts and some tanks and other vehicles. Part of the runway was also damaged.

On September 11 and 13, a number of Kabul regime troops defected to the Mujahideen in Kushki Nakhud district and Mahalajat. Together with the 'defectees', the Mujahideen attacked regime positions in Shurabak district.

On September 15, Mujahideen fired rockets on Kabul regime targets in Qandahar city.

On September 16 and 17, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar Airport. Atleast one helicopter was hit.

On September 22, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qandahar airport hitting two helicopters on the runway.

A news agency correspondent's despatch from Spin Buldak after its capture from Kabul regime militia:

"A heavy chain hung across the road. Above it a big red banner stirred sluggishly in a slight breeze".

"Blocking the frontier against our enemies", it sternly announced, "is the strategic duty of the party and the government, and the holy duty of all people".

Some one had failed in that duty. Because the bearded Afghan standing guard at the border chain was not a government soldier. He was one of the Mujahideen who had just captured the border post in a bloody battle that had opened the international highway linking

southern Afghanistan with Pakistan.

He eased the AK-47 assault rifle on his shoulder and grinned. "Three days ago it was the Army of the infidel. Now it's the Army of Islam".

Behind him hundreds of Mujahideen freedom fighters were celebrating in the wreckage of the Spin Buldak bazaar, a former border smuggling centre. Afghan rice dishes, endless cups of green tea and everywhere communist pamphlets and pictures of Lenin screwed up, spat and scattered on the road.

They had a lot to celebrate about. For the first time since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 the 122 kilometres long road from Pakistan to Afghanistan's biggest southern city was now in their control.

They had taken it from Ismat Muslim. A local Achackzai man, reputed to have 10 wives, he had once been with the Mujahideen himself. In 1985 he had changed sides and joined the Kabul government army. His Achackzai tribe followed him and he formed and led two Kabul militias; the Fidaian and Muslim militias.

The Fidaian militia fought the Mujahideen throughout the province of Qandahar, while the Muslim militia held the main road from Spin Buldak to Qandahar city with the help of three divisions of trained army regulars from the Sarandoy and Khad.

On May 19 this year the Mujahideen mounted an offensive for the road he controlled.

For three months they moved slowly and surely towards Ismat Muslim's base in the big town of Spin Buldak. On August 29, he called in the trained Kabul government soldiers with him, the Frontier Brigade, Sarandoy men and Khad soldiers. The fighting intensified.

About 3,000 men, women and children were moved to the Sera San area under Mujahideen safe keeping, including two of Ismat Muslim's wives and one of his fathers-in-law.

A few militia families were still at Spin Buldak sheltering from the sun under trucks and guns.

"After our families have resettled", one militiaman said, "we will fight along side the Mujahideen".

A National Islamic Commander's bodyguard pushed back a Kabul regime army cap. "Today Spin Buldak. Tomorrow Kabul!" he boasted.

May be. But only hours after he said that Afghan airforce jets suddenly screamed into the celebrating bazaar and pounded it with what the Mujahideen call "barrel bombs". Casualty figures are not available.

But the same day jets overtook eight Mujahideen escorting 33

defecting militiamen and their families to a safe holding area. Everybody was strafed to death (AMRC).

Radio Tehran: Sources from Qandahar province say that on September 4, hundreds of soldiers of Afghan militia handed over to Mujahideen a big base and sixteen security posts in Spin Buldak area. These soldiers defected to Mujahideen along with their families in sixty trucks. The sources say that the militiamen have come under the command of Haji Mowash of Jabba-i-Nijat-e-Milli, Maulvi Ghulam Mohammad of Ittehad-e-Islami and Haji Abdul Karim Achackzai of Jamiat-e-Islami and they have sent their families to Pakistan. The sources add that on the same day Mujahideen launched an attack on a big military base located between Spin Buldak and Qandahar and seized a big quantity of arms and ammunition, including two tanks and six trucks which are in working condition. The sources say that due to these operations road between Spin Buldak and Qandahar has been closed. Kabul government had handed over security of the road to influential leader of Achackzai tribe, Ismatullah Muslim. It may be pointed out that hundreds of militiamen who defected to Mujahideen this week also belong to the same militia group (Comments Urdu: 7 September, 1988).

The correspondent of the Afghan resistance news agency, Mohammad Shafiq was killed as a result of Kabul regime air raids of Spin Buldak town last week (News-Pushto: 13 September, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen have liberated Spin Buldak, Qandahar province (News-Persian: 15 September, 1988).

Two Palestinian Youth who entered Afghanistan several years ago and fought against the Communist regime side by side with the Afghan Mujahideen were martyred in a clash with the Communist troops in Spin Buldak area in Qandahar province recently (News-Pushto: 18 September, 1988).

BBC: Report received from the southern Afghanistan say that three days after capturing Spin Buldak garrison by Mujahideen the government forces have vacated the security post of Takhta-e-Pul and fled towards the Qandahar airport. Reports reaching Quetta say that Afghan government is sending reinforcement to Qandahar from Kalat and Tarinkot garrisons (Jahan News-Urdu: 15 September, 1988).

According to Afghan guerillas, dozens of people have been killed and injured in the Spin Buldak area in Afghanistan just a few miles from the Pakistani border in three days of intermittent bombing by Afghan airforce planes. The bombardment followed the surrender to the guerillas of a Government garrison at Spin Buldak last Friday. From Islamabad George Arney:

There are conflicting reports about the number of people

killed in the Spin Buldak area over the past three days; anywhere between twenty and several hundred according to different guerilla sources. In Islamabad, a spokesman for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of the moderate guerilla parties described it as a massacre. He said that after the government's garrison at Spin Buldak surrendered on Friday, people rushed to the area from out-lying villages and from refugee camps in Pakistan to see what goods they could salvage. Then Afghan war planes struck, killing hundreds of people including women and children. Quoting eye-witnesses, he said that bodies were lying about everywhere, thought they haven't yet been counted. A spokesman for the same party, who is based in Quetta, the nearest Pakistani town to the border said that the majority of the victims were killed not on Friday but on Sunday when a village about five miles from Spin Buldak was heavily bombed. Another guerilla source in Quetta who is usually reliable, denied that any civilians had been killed. According to his information, the only victims were guerillas and some of the estimated four hundred Afghan government troops who surrendered or were captured on Friday and were then transferred to a nearby guerilla base (Newsreel: 11 September 88).

VOA: In Afghanistan, the Afghan Mujahideen are nowadays exerting heavy pressure on the Qandahar airport because the largest number of Afghan government troops has been deployed in the area. Details of this military situation and about a tribal elder who sought shelter with the Afghan government seven years ago have been sent by our correspondent, John Shultz from Islamabad which are read by Akhtar Abbas.

A Mujahideen Commander who has recently arrived in Quetta said that the Mujahideen have destroyed four aircraft parked at the Qandahar airport. The attack had taken place on September 17 and 18. The Afghan Mujahideen's informers inside the airport said that one military transport plane, two fighter bombers and one helicopter gunship were destroyed during two days of fierce fighting. Besides, ten Afghan government troops were also killed. In addition, according to these sources a part of the airport runway and several buildings were also damaged. The Mujahideen used long-range guns to destroy these planes and damage the airport. The guns were installed near Takht-e-Pul area, nearly twenty kilometres from the airport. The Mujahideen denied the Afghan government claim that its forces recaptured Takht-e-Pul on September 16. They said, "The area is under our control". However, the Mujahideen Commanders said that Afghan troops had killed some refugees near this garrison.

Qandahar airport is situated about fifteen kilometres south-east of

the city and it is considered the most significant air-base for the Kabul regime for the last several months because helicopter gunships and fighter bombers fly from this airport to the southern area and help the ground forces.

The Mujahideen Commander said that the Afghan government sent thousands of government troops to the Qandahar airport in the first two days of September as they feared that Qandahar was also going into the hands of Mujahideen.

Meanwhile several Mujahideen sources in Quetta have reported that Ismatullah Muslim has been appointed regional Governor of Hilmand, Qandahar, Uruzgan and Zabul. In early 1980, Ismatullah Muslim fled from a Mujahideen camp and joined the Kabul government and he was conferred the rank of Brigadier General. Before being appointed as the Governor, he was considered as leader of militia and tribal units in Qandahar. Some reports say that he has also planned to recapture Spin Buldak (Radio Report—Urdu: 22 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A terrorist group was picked out by the security forces yesterday in the suburbs of Qandahar city. Equipped with light and heavy weapons the group was trying to disturb the peaceful life of the citizens of Qandahar city by shelling residential area. Twenty three terrorists were killed and forty others injured in these operations (News—Pushto: 8 September, 1988).

In one of his recent interviews with the correspondent of the daily *Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur*, the Executive Chief of Qandahar province, Major General Abdul Haq Ulumi has said that the security forces are bravely defending Qandahar and that the local people are also fully co-operating with them. He said that the terrorists have been trying for several years to capture the abode of Ahmad Shah Abdali and Mirwas Baba, but the sons of these Pukhtoon elders are courageously defending the shrines of their elders.

The Executive Chief of Qandahar province said that advisors of the Western and Arab countries are assisting the terrorists in disturbing the peaceful life of the people of Qandahar, but none of their nefarious plans has so far been successful and the situation in Qandahar and other areas is completely normal. Gen. Abdul Haq Ulumi said the Afghan security forces have recently wiped out a number of terrorist groups and captured their arms. He said that in a recent operation in Spin Buldak town, the Afghan security forces have killed two Arab advisors and several Pakistani militiamen along with the terrorists. General Ulumi said that the bandits will never succeed in their nefarious plan (Interview—Pushto: 20 September, 1988).

In continuation of the process of return home of our compatriots

from abroad twenty more families consisting of two hundred and ten members returned to Qandahar province in the light of the national reconciliation policy. Fifteen families were from areas belonging to Qandahar province and five were from Hilmand province. After distribution of essential relief assistance these compatriots were transported to their native areas (News—English: 20 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: On Saturday, extremist's attempt to enter Qandahar city situated in south of Afghanistan was foiled. French Press Agency has quoted an official report of Kabul Radio that ten decoits were killed and two injured (News—English: 12 September, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: On September 5, Mujahideen fired rockets on Qalat, capital of Zabul province, as a result of which about twenty Kabul troops were killed and some government offices and buildings destroyed.

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: On September 4, Mujahideen attacked regime establishments in Ghazni city, killing an army officer and two soldiers.

On September 5, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy near Muqar town, 102 kilometres from Ghazni. The convoy which was proceeding to Qandahar from Ghazni under air cover was forced to retreat after losing a number of tanks and armoured vehicles. Five Mujahideen were killed and sixteen injured.

On September 19, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter while it was flying over Ghazni city. Earlier Soviet planes had bombed Rabat village, killing ten persons. Dozens of houses were destroyed in and around Rabat and many families fled to the neighbouring Paktia province and Pakistan.

On September 21, Mujahideen attacked a military camp near Gilan on Kabul-Qandahar road.

Radio Tehran: According to another report the Mujahideen captured a military base in Gilan area in Ghazni province on Kabul-Qandahar highway killing nine communist troops besides capturing one military truck and forty klashnikovs during the operation (News—Pushto: 30 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Bloody clashes among the armed groups of Nasar, Harkat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami, Islamic Party and Islami Mahaz Party are continuing unabated in Qarabagh Uluswali of Ghazni province. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reports that as a result of the clashes among the extremist groups in Sarache, Chaoni, Nao-abad,

Masar, Ziarat Agha villages seven persons from the hostile groups were killed including a leader of Masar, Ziarat Agha. Similarly during the clashes, two Arab advisors who were supporting the extremist group of the Islamic Party, were also killed and two others were arrested. In Badani area, an office of the Nasar group was set on fire by the members of the extremist group of Islamic Party.

Similarly as a result of armed clashes between various armed groups, three innocent people were martyred and about twenty houses and thirty two shops of the local people were destroyed (News—Pushto: 4 September, 1988).

A West German couple who had illegally entered Afghanistan recently was arrested by the security forces of the country in Ghazni province (News—Pushto: 19 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The detachments of various factions of the Afghan opposition were locked in bloody battles in the past few days in Qarabagh district of Ghazni province. According to reports reaching here, battles involving groups from IPA, the Movement for Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and Nasar (Organization of Afghanistan) left tens of people killed and hundreds wounded. Also killed were Gul Muhammad, commander of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan detachment, and two Arab advisors with an IPA group. Two more advisors were taken prisoner by one of the warring groups. The enemy captured and destroyed the Nasar Organization's provincial headquarters. As a result of the hostilities several peasants were killed and some 100 dwellings and 32 shops burned down. Internal fighting is intensifying with every day. Battles between the detachments of the armed opposition were held in the past week in the provinces of Parwan, Samangan, Laghman and Logar. The number of the rebels killed reached 30, according to incomplete data.

The main cause contributing to in-fighting are the conflicts over weapons supplied from Pakistan and Iran and property looted from the population, as well as squabbles over this or that territory. At the same time, many leaders of armed opposition groups hold various views on the prospect for continuing struggle with people's government if Pakistan halts military and political support for "the irreconcilables". Representatives of some anti-government groups in the provinces of Balkh and Samangan proposed to mark time temporarily. Zia-ul-Haq's death also threw into confusion the rebels operating in other regions of Afghanistan. In particular, low morales were reported among the armed groups in Wardak province. Many rebels display growing anxiety over the fate of their relatives in refugee camps in Pakistan. They leave armed groups and head for Peshawar. On August 23 as many as 120 mem-

bers of opposition groups left Wardak province for Peshawar (5 September, 1988).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: On September 12, Mujahideen captured Katwaz, a 'military centre' south of the provincial headquarters Sharna, while at the same time strengthening their position around Khairkot cantonment. Katwaz fell after a siege lasting over a month. A helicopter was shot down in this area. During fighting in and around Khairkot the Mujahideen seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Radio Tehran: In their recent operations, the Afghan Mujahideen have liberated Sharna, an important city of Paktika province close to the Pakistan border. According to reports, a Western diplomat said that the Mujahideen had also liberated Gadoon city near Sharna (News—Urdu—Pushto: 21 September, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen have announced that thirty people were killed as a result of the downing of a military helicopter of the Kabul regime in eastern Afghan Province of Paktia last week. The Afghan Mujahideen also reported to have killed twenty-one Kabul regime troops and inflicted loss of thirty-one million Afghanis on the Kabul regime when they hit a telecommunication centre in Herat Province recently. They also attacked a military post in Siri Zangal area in Herat Province killing seven communist troops (30 September, 1988).

VOA: Western diplomatic sources have confirmed that the Mujahideen have captured the capital of south-eastern Paktika province, Sharna and now only one important city, Urgoon remains under the control of the Kabul regime. That too is besieged (20 September, 88).

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 27 August: Mujahideen fire rockets at Gardez airport and cantonment.

28 August: Mujahideen continue attacks on Gardez. A bridge on Gardez-Kabul road and two tanks destroyed.

30 August: Mujahideen shot down an aircraft near Sayed Karam.

On September 1, Mujahideen launched a severe missile attack "around" Gardez city, hitting 4 tanks and other vehicles. Ten regime soldiers were killed and twenty-eighty injured.

On September 13, 14 and 16, Mujahideen attacked regime establishments and troops in the Jaji Maidan area. More than 150 troops and 'pro-regime' persons were killed.

On September 19, Mujahideen attacked an important security post at Barri. On the same day they captured a Kabul airforce pilot who had

bailed out of a helicopter some 12 kilometres north of Gardez. The pilot was identified as Lt. Mohammad Tahir.

On September 24, Mujahideen captured headquarters of Zurmat district. About 150 Kabul regime soldiers and militiamen were killed. Mujahideen captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

On September 26, Mujahideen captured five Kabul regime military posts in Dwando area.

BBC: Radio Kabul says that a big fire incident in the eastern garrison of Gardez has caused great damage to government building and several people sustained injuries as a result of the fire that broke out following a rocket attack by Afghan guerillas (News—Urdu: 17 September, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan Mujahideen are said to have captured the Khairkot military garrison in Paktika province located on a very strategic route leading to Ghazni city from the Pakistan border. The reports, which could not be confirmed from independent sources, say the said garrison was captured by the Mujahideen Friday last after a month long fighting. After the Spin Buldak, Khairkot is the second biggest stronghold of the Afghan regime which fell to Mujahideen during the last week. The Mujahideen sources say that they killed a large number of government militiamen deployed at the garrison during the operation. The Mujahideen have also reported that they have nabbed down and executed the regional Chief Administrator and regional Chief of the Afghan secret service KHAD (News—Urdu: 11 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that an extremist group was wiped out by the Armed Forces in Jazi area of Paktia province recently. In the course of the successful operations an ammunition depot of the extremists was also destroyed (News—Pushto: 17 September, 1988).

A group of armed extremists which had planned to sabotage peace and security in various places of Khost district has been crushed by the armed forces.

Fourteen criminals have been crushed in Lakarain area of Khost district as a result of successful operations by the armed forces. Weapons have been seized from them (News—Urdu: 29 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: There have been armed clashes in three Afghan provinces, Kunduz, Parwan and Paktia between government's army units and groups opposed to the government. The terrorists lost thirty-five men killed and some thirty more were injured. A large quantity of arms was seized. According to the available information the extremists have continued to receive support from Pakistan. A group that trained in Pakistan has arrived in the city of Charikar.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has handed over more notes to the United Nations Goodwill Mission mentioning Pakistani violation of the Geneva Accords (News—English: 13 September, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 22 August: Mujahideen kill two 'senior' Afghan Communist Party officials in an ambush in Shinwar.

23 August: Following heavy bombardment of villages in Ningarhar province by Soviet-made aircraft more than 150 families of refugees enter Pakistan frontier.

25 August: Mujahideen capture Shamshad, a security post on Pak-Afghan border.

26 August: Two brigades of the 14th Afghan Army previously stationed in Herat have been moved to Ningarhar and deployed in Sar-Khorad, Khugian and Rudat areas.

30 August: Mujahideen fired rockets on military posts around Ghanikhel and Jalalabad. Over 45 troops were killed and 2 tanks destroyed.

31 August: An aircraft shot down near Jalalabad. Mujahideen also attack military posts near Pul-e-Kama. A bridge destroyed and two officers captured.

On September 2, ten Mujahideen were killed and 25 injured during bombardment by Soviet-made aircraft in certain rural areas of Ningarhar.

On September 4, Mujahideen attacked enemy establishments in Jalalabad airport area and Chapparhar.

On September 6 and 7, Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Khewa, Bandi and Roghano areas.

On September 13, Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy moving out from Jalalabad for Kabul. Three vehicles were hit and a number of soldiers killed and wounded.

On September 16, Mujahideen fired rockets on military posts around Jalalabad city.

On September 17, Mujahideen fired rockets on Jalalabad airport, hitting an aircraft, and killing a number of people.

Mujahideen announced they would continue attacks on Jalalabad until the "communists abandon the city". They therefore called upon the residents to evacuate Jalalabad.

On September 19, Mujahideen captured 6 militiamen in Rodat district.

On September 24, Mujahideen blew up a major army arms and ammunition depot at Samarkhel, 12 kilometres south-east of Jalalabad. Soviet troops had left Samarkhel on May 15, handing it over to Kabul

regime troops. Mujahideen claimed they had set 15 timebombs in one of the depots at Samarkhel. They said 3 dumps were destroyed. Among the items lost was a "pile of newly acquired rockets". One Mujahideen source perceived: "The communists intended to fire these rockets on refugees camps in and around Peshawar".

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen blew up a major ammunition dump of the Kabul regime in Samarkhel base, twenty-five kilometres in the east of Jalalabad city yesterday. This was stated by a spokesman of the Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan (News—Pushto: 29 September, 1988).

VOA: In Peshawar, Mujahideen sources have reported that Mujahideen of Hizb-e-Islami (Younas Khalis Group) have claimed responsibility for the explosion that took place in Samarkhel garrison at 3.30 A.M. on Friday. Samarkhel is situated twenty-five miles east of Jalalabad. They said that Mujahideen carried out the explosion in the arms and ammunition depot of the Afghan government forces with the help of a time-bomb which was planted by the patriotic people working in the garrison. The sources have provided details of the explosion. They reported that a big stock of arms and ammunition was destroyed due to the explosion. Besides a number of weapons were also destroyed which included supertankers, military vehicles and twenty-eight Soviet missiles having range of about sixty kilometres. Flames of the fires that broke out due to the explosion in the garrison were seen for twelve hours, due to which a number of buildings were damaged and two hundred and twenty-five government soldiers and officers were seriously injured. The sources reported that police arrested thirty-four soldiers and officers on Friday and Saturday (Radio Report—Urdu: 25 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The extremist elements opened fire with heavy weapons on a residential area of Jalalabad city this morning. As a result one compatriot was martyred and two others injured (News—Pushto: 4 September, 1988).

The armed extremists by firing fourteen ground-to-ground missiles at the residential area of our people in Jalalabad city today committed another crime against our peaceful compatriots. The missiles landed at 1st, 2nd and 3rd ward of Jalalabad, as a result of which a child and a woman were injured and caused heavy material damages to the people of the area (News—Pushto: 18 September, 1988).

Yet in another clash between Khalis and Gulbadin groups in Chapparhar Alaquadari eight extremists from both groups were killed including their ring leaders (News—Pushto: 19 September, 1988).

Another one hundred and seventy-three families of our compatriots consisting of three hundred members returned home from Pakis-

tan in the light of the National Reconciliation policy. These compatriots after a short stay in Ningarhar were taken today to their residential areas in Ningarhar, Kabul, Baghlan, Parwan, Jozjan and Takhar provinces (News—English: 25 September, 1988).

BIA correspondent reports from Jalalabad city that a group of war-mongering elements who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of Ningarhar province was suppressed by the security forces.

During the operation carried out by the security forces one of the ring-leaders of the criminal Gulbadin band was arrested and six war-mongering elements were suppressed and two units of machine guns together with a large number of ammunition and explosives were seized (News—English: 28 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The Bakhtar news agency reports that the Afghan armed forces have wiped out a group of extremists which was on its way to Ningarhar province. The Afghan armed forces also gave serious blow to the extremist groups in Ningarhar and Hilmand provinces. The armed forces also captured ground-to-ground missiles in Hilmand province. These missiles were to be fired on the Afghan towns and villages (News—Pushto: 5 September, 1988).

Another crime has been committed by rebels of the Afghan armed opposition. Yesterday, they carried out missile attack on the city of Jalalabad. Six persons were killed when one of the missiles exploded (News—English: 17 September, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: On August 31, Mujahideen AAGs hit a Soviet-made plane near Asmar cantonment. Its pilot, identified Abdul Ahid, bailed out but was captured. Yet another aircraft was shot down near Sheegal.

On September 3, Mujahideen attacked Kabuli soldiers in Sarkany area.

On September 4, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops in Asmar district. A number of soldiers were killed and some others captured.

On September 8, Soviet-made aircraft heavily bombarded Sheegal, which Mujahideen had taken from Kabul regime forces in mid-August.

On September 9, Mujahideen hit and destroyed an arms and ammunition depot in Narang district. Also a convoy carrying militia supplies from Ningarhar to Kunar was attacked. Several trucks were hit.

On September 15, Mujahideen renewed vigorous attacks on Asmar

cantonment, which had been under a state of siege for about a month.

On September 21, Mujahideen captured a security post in Pech valley.

On September 22, Kabul regime troops tried to break out of Mujahideen siege of Asmar cantonment, but failed. Meanwhile Mujahideen overran some more security posts guarding Asmar.

Also on September 22, Mujahideen captured an air-field some 4 kilometres west of the provincial capital, Asadabad.

On September 25, Mujahideen dug-in in the Asadabad airport area shelled the Asadabad cantonment and Asadabad city. A tank and two barracks were hit. In exchange of artillery fire both sides suffered casualties. Some non-combatants were also killed and wounded.

On September 26, Kabul regime forces attacked the strategic Sheegal area (in Mujahideen control), in order to carry men and supplies to the besieged Asmar cantonment. But the attempt was frustrated. A tank which managed to reach Sheegal was destroyed.

On September 30, the important Asmar cantonment fell to Mujahideen, after over two months of fierce fighting. The fall of Asmar would make Mujahideen communications with Badakhshan, Laghman and Parwan easier. Mujahideen sources said they now control the whole of Kunar province with the exception of Asadabad, Khas Kunar and Sukani.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have further narrowed the siege of the Asadabad city which is the provincial headquarters of Kunar province. According to the reports fierce fighting continued between the Afghan Mujahideen and Kabul government troops. The report says that a number of Afghan troops were killed and wounded and twelve tanks have been destroyed. The Mujahideen also shot down a plane of the Communists and captured the pilot (News—Urdu: 5 September, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen during their operations on last Thursday liberated the airport of Chaga Sarai which is the main city of the Afghan province of Kunar. Informed sources said in Peshawar last night that sixty-two Kabul government troops were also killed in these operations. Mujahideen also captured a huge quantity of arms (News—Urdu: 26 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Reports from Kunar say that in the course of the successful operations of the Armed Forces in Shinkara area, six extremists were wiped out and four were injured (14 September, 1988).

As a result of military operations in Asmar area of Kunar province, fifteen extremists were wiped out and eight others were seriously injured (News—Pushto: 22 September, 1988).

Nooristan

Mujahideen sources: In a combined move various Mujahideen formations in Nooristan captured 14 security posts in the first week of September. Soviet-Kabul forces counter-attacked but were routed in a fiercely contested action at a place called Godwal. Here were located the offices and supply depots of the newly created Nooristan province.

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: On September 2, Mujahideen consolidated their control on the Kisham district. Kisham fell following the defection of the Mujahideen of a militia commander, Pahlawan Abdur Razaq who crossed over with 400 armed men. Yet another "KHAD commander" joined the Mujahideen with 200 men, 6 tanks and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. Twenty-nine Mujahideen were killed during fighting for Kisham. Kisham district, 3,042 sq. km, is located about 35 km south-west of Faizabad, capital of Badakhshan.

On September 7, Mujahideen captured the sub-divisional headquarters of Baharak, on the highway leading from Faizabad to Wakhan valley, bordering on Pakistan, China and USSR. Mujahideen attacked the garrison with rockets. When they finally stormed into it most of the troops had already fled. However, they captured 18 troops. They also seized a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Sixty-two Kabul regime militiamen were killed while defending the airfield, against 8 Mujahideen killed and 22 wounded.

VIRA: Reports from Islamabad say that the Afghan Mujahideen have liberated Dushan (ph) Ulaswali in Badakhshan province on Friday. The Mujahideen also captured 800 Kabul regime troops and a large quantity of arms and ammunition (News—Pushto: 7 September, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Hundreds of Kabul government troops have defected to the Mujahideen side in the Northern Afghanistan province of Badakhshan. According to the reports, after defection of four hundred troops of Najibullah government to the Afghan Mujahideen, another two hundred troops defected to the Mujahideen side in Kisham area of Badakhshan province. Similarly, Chief of the Kabul government security force in Badakhshan province has also defected to the Mujahideen along with his supporters (News—Urdu: 3 September, 1988).

BBC: Afghan guerillas claim to have captured the military garrison of Kisham in the north-eastern province of Badakhshan. BBC correspondent George Arney reports from Islamabad that commander of the Jamiat in Badakhshan has informed through a letter sent to Peshawar

that Mujahideen captured Kisham garrison and twenty-one other security posts late last month. The Kisham garrison is situated in the centre of a small city with a population of about five thousand. The Soviet troops were deployed in the garrison till the middle of July. According to the letter of the commander Aliyanpur during two days of fighting three hundred sixty government troops were either killed or captured. During this fighting seven armoured vehicles, heavy long range machine guns, food and other ammunition were captured. Twenty-nine guerillas were killed and twenty-five others wounded in this fighting (15 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that another 750 members and activists of the people's Democratic Party and Democratic Youth Organization of Badakhshan province have voluntarily joined the party Military Brigade of the province. The Brigade was raised in Assad this (Shamsi Hijri) year. The volunteers have completed all the necessary basic military courses. They are now deputed to maintain law and order and peace and security in the province (News—Pushto: 24 September, 1988).

The extremist elements by using heavy weapons, launched a missile attack on Faizabad provincial headquarters of Badakhshan province yesterday. As a result of the missile firing one person was martyred and two children were injured (News—Pushto: 29 September, 1988).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: On September 3, Soviet-Kabul forces launched another attack to regain control on Taloqan which had been taken by Mujahideen on August 13.

On September 4, the attack gained momentum.

On September 8, Soviet-Kabul troops were pushed back. A large number of them were killed and injured. Sixteen of them were captured.

On September 12, Russian-made aircraft heavily bombarded Taloqan city and suburbs. Eye-witnesses were quoted as saying that the aircraft had taken off from bases across the border in USSR. Dozens of shops were demolished and most of the local population fled to take refuge in the countryside.

VIRA: Taloqan located on the border of the Soviet Union, had fallen to the control of the Mujahideen early this month. On 7 September, the Soviet invading troops counter-attacked but their attack was repulsed by the Mujahideen. During the fighting fifty troops of the enemy were killed and a Soviet plane was shot down (18 Sept. 1988).

BBC: Fighting has again started in Taloqan, the capital of northern

province of Takhar. The guerillas occupied Taloqan last month. A spokesman of the Jamiat said in Peshawar that a counter-attack launched in the beginning of September was repulsed. He said that seventy Afghan government soldiers were either killed or arrested. The Afghan government news agency Bakhtar reported that sixty-three guerillas were killed and another one hundred twenty injured in Taloqan area last week (13 September, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan government forces are trying their best to recapture Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province along the Soviet border which has been under the Mujahideen control since 12 August. An Afghan government source in Kabul claimed that Mujahideen have been evacuated from Taloqan. But the Mujahideen sources in Peshawar say that they have repulsed the government forces causing them heavy loss of life. However, these sources say a number of buildings in the city have been destroyed by the war planes flying from the Soviet Union and most of the citizens have taken shelter in the surrounding villages due to fear of bombardment (29 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A Defence Section of Bakhtar news agency reports that sixty-three terrorists were killed and one hundred and twenty others injured when the Afghan security forces carried out successful operations against the enemies of peace in Taloqan city. The security forces have also captured a huge quantity of arms (News—Pushto: 6 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: In the past few days units of the Afghan Army carried out several successful operations to eliminate detachments of the irreconcilable opposition. In Takhar province local population helped destroy eleven extremists and seize weapons and ammunition. Twenty-eight rebels were killed in hostilities in Kunduz, Ghazni and Hilmand (5 September, 1988).

One of the operations in the Takhar province has been a major success of government troops. Sixty-three rebels were killed and 120 were wounded in the course of combat actions against an armed opposition unit in the vicinity of Taloqan. A considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition was captured (7 September, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On September 2, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter flying out from Kunduz towards Mazar-i-Sharif.

On September 3, Russian-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions around Kunduz city. Earlier they had held out a challenge to Mujahideen to raise the siege of Kunduz city. A large number of innocent civilians were killed during bombardment.

On September 7, Mujahideen shot down a military transport plane near Kunduz city. The passengers were believed to include some senior Soviet and Kabul army officers.

On September 10, four Afghan Air Force officers defected to Mujahideen (somewhere) in Kunduz province.

On September 14, Soviet-Kabul troops attacked Mujahideen positions around Kunduz city. The attack was preceded and followed by aerial bombardment.

On September 18, Mujahideen attacked Kabul army camping grounds near Kunduz city. A number of RA soldiers were killed.

On September 19, two KHAD officers defected to Mujahideen from the Kunduz Airport area.

Radio Tehran: After capturing Imam Sahib and Neiki Kala areas in Kunduz province the Mujahideen have now established their strongholds along the Soviet border.

Another report says that the Mujahideen have killed eleven Kabul regime troops and captured two hundred others in an attack on Neiki Kala area in Kunduz province. Besides, they have also attacked Imam Sahib area in Kunduz province and Kabul regime troops joined the ranks of the Mujahideen after killing their Commanders (News—Pushto: 4 September, 1988).

BBC: The Afghan government says it was an American-made missile used by the guerillas which brought down the military transport plane on Wednesday night, killing all sixteen people on board. Two of the 12 passengers who died were Brigadier Generals, another was a political commissar, George Arney in Islamabad has the details:

According to Kabul Radio the Afghan Air Force transport plane was shot down on Wednesday as it was heading towards the province of Kunduz on the Soviet border. Another transport aircraft was shot down in roughly the same area three and a half weeks ago, reportedly while trying to land at Kunduz airport during a fierce battle for possession of the provincial capital. On that occasion thirty-nine people were killed. This time there were only sixteen victims but they included two Brigadier Generals named as Mohammad Ismail Noori and Abdul Ahmad. A political commissar in the Defence Ministry, Colonel Koya (ph) was also killed.

Kabul Radio said the aircraft was shot down with an American-made Stinger missile. Stingers have been used with devastating effects by the guerillas since Washington started to supply them at the end of 1986. Kabul has been making increasingly vehement protests over the past few weeks about the continued supply by

Pakistan of weapons and ammunition to the guerillas which it says contravenes the agreement reached at Geneva in April on non-interference in each other's affairs. In turn Islamabad has been complaining about repeated bombing raids by Afghan aircraft on Pakistani villages. Each side has rejected the others' allegations. The latest incident which comes as non-aligned Foreign Ministers are trying to hammer out a consensus resolution on Afghanistan, is likely to add even more fuel to the war of words between the two countries (Newsreel—English: 9 September, 1988).

Radio Beijing: Soviet troops have been redeployed in several strategic Afghan cities to fight mounting resistance from Afghan rebels.

Xinhua news agency reports that the Soviet troops had recaptured Kunduz city, the capital of Kunduz province bordering the Soviet Union.

The Soviet troops have also returned to other provincial capitals.

The Soviets reportedly conducted several bombing raids around Baghlan city last Saturday. A large number of civilians were killed.

The Soviets claim that half of their troops had left Afghanistan by August fifteen. But reports say that a hundred thousand Soviet troops are still deployed in Afghan provinces (News—English: 9 Sept. 1988).

AIR: Thirty-five Afghan rebels have been reported killed in clashes with Afghan army during the last thirty-six hours. Soviet news agency TASS reports that some machine-guns and landmines have been taken in possession. The clashes occurred in Kunduz, Parwan and Paktia provinces (News—Urdu: 14 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Bakhtar news agency reports that the armed opposition has downed an M-32 military transport plane of the Afghan Air Force with a US-made Stinger missile in Kunduz province yesterday. Twelve passengers and four crew members were martyred in this incident. Brigadier Mohammad Ismail Noori, Brigadier Abdul Ahad Razminda and Colonel Mohammad Hasan Koghyar were also among the martyred (News—Pushto: 8 September, 1988).

The Bakhtar news agency correspondent has reported from Kunduz province that operation for clearing the areas around Kunduz from extremist bands is continuing. As a result of our security forces operation in Hazrat Sultan area of Kunduz, twenty-five terrorists were killed and many others seriously injured.

Similarly a large quantity of foreign-made arms was seized during an operation against the counter-revolutionary terrorists in the areas around Gholkar (ph) city. Further mopping up operation is continuing (News—Urdu: 13 September, 1988).

In the ancient city of Kunduz which was recently partly destroyed

as a result of the heinous and devastating activities of the extremists, normal life has resumed. The noble people of that province in collaboration with the armed forces and employees and members of social organizations of Kunduz province are busy in reconstructing their city (News—English: 25 September, 1988).

TASS: Moscow August 31: The Soviet Union is implementing its commitments under the Geneva Accords, and the charges of violations of these accords by it are groundless, Gennady Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the Soviet Foreign Ministry said at a briefing today.

He commented on a statement by Phyllis Oakley, a State Department spokeswoman, alleging that the Soviet Union has violated the Geneva Accords on the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan by supporting the Afghan side in repelling the attack on the town of Kunduz by armed detachments of anti-government forces, using combat aircraft and helicopters in the process. The events in Kunduz, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said, came as a direct result of the continuing violation of the Geneva Accords and of the armed interference from the Pakistani territory in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Breaking into Kunduz, the detachments of armed opposition murdered civilians, plundered and destroyed homes. They captured hostages and took about 200 school-girls from the town. In this connection, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed urgent measures were required to save the town and innocent lives.

Besides, during that time there were still some small military units and Soviet civilians in the area of the town of Kunduz, whose evacuation had yet to be completed.

Replying to journalists' questions, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman added that planes based in the USSR were used in the Kunduz area with the Afghan government's consent to provide urgent support for a Soviet military unit conducting combat operations against superior forces of the armed opposition.

The tragic developments in Kunduz, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, have shown where the outside encouragement of the opposition forces operating in Afghanistan can lead. The duty of the United States as a guarantor of compliance with the Geneva Accords is to contribute to commitments under the accords. There might not have been such events in Kunduz if the United States had exerted corresponding influence on the Pakistani leadership with a view to suppressing the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and ending the fratricidal war (Tass: 31 August, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: 23 August: Locally raised militias in the service of Kabul regime attacked Mujahideen positions in Dooshi and Dahan-i-Ghoori areas. They were supported by jet aircraft. The offensive was frustrated. The Kabulis lost three tanks. A number of their men defected to Mujahideen.

27 August: Mujahideen attacked a military convoy north of Salang Tunnel. Six oil tankers were hit.

30 August: Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops and establishments in or near Doshaka, Charnaghak and Baghlan city. More than 30 troops were killed.

On September 10, Mujahideen shot down a jet fighter-bomber near Baghlan city.

On September 11, Mujahideen killed fifteen militiamen in the Shahr-e-Kuhna section of Baghlan city. Two Mujahideen were also killed.

On September 13-15, Mujahideen attacked transport plying on the Salang Highway near the tunnels. Traffic on Salang Highway remained closed for long spells. On the days when it is open between 100 and 200 vehicles travel on it each way.

On September 18, a tank was destroyed in Baghlan city by a "magnetic mine".

On September 21, Mujahideen attacked a security post near Pul-e-Khumri.

BBC: Radio Pakistan reports that one hundred Kabul regime troops were killed during clashes with the Afghan Mujahideen in Doshak area near Baghlan province in northern Afghanistan (News—Pushto: 4 September, 1988).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: On September 5, Mujahideen attacked Kabul Army garrison at Darra Saudm South-West of the provincial headquarters Aibak. An initial rocket attack forced the soldiers out of their campaign grounds and they fled before Mujahideen actually arrived on the spot. Mujahideen captured a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Radio Kabul: Twelve families of our compatriots, comprising sixty two members, recently returned to their homes in Samangan and Farah provinces from Iran and Pakistan (2 September, 1988).

According to another report two ring leaders of the extremist bands were arrested in Koh-e-Sara area, Samangan province, by the Armed Forces. In these operations the local people have also taken active part (News—Pushto: 4 September, 1988).

Yesterday morning extremist elements fired eight surface-to-surface missiles on the residential area of Aibak city, capital of Samangan province. As a result one child was injured and three residential houses were set ablaze. The fire was put out by the security forces and they prevented further damage (Kabul Domestic Service in Dari: 22 September, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On September 6, Mujahideen attacked a security post at Charbagh Gulshan. Eight Kabuli soldiers were believed to have been killed. Mujahideen also attacked Kabul regime troops at Kudy Khel of Balkh district.

On September 13, Mujahideen hit and brought down a helicopter at Nehr-e-Shahi, west of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On September 21, Mujahideen captured a security post near Sar-e-Pul. Sixteen militiamen surrendered to Mujahideen.

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: 16 August: Mujahideen wiped out several security posts and captured villages of Qalatak, Tagabaj and Zinzara.

Krasnya Zvezda: In Jozjan province, a well-armed group of extremists attacked a vehicle convoy travelling on the Sheberghan to Mazar-i-Sharif highway. The Sarandoy (troops of the Ministry of the Interior) escorting the convoy repulsed the rebels attack (14 September, 1988).

Badghis

Radio Kabul: An eighty-member armed group joined the national reconciliation policy in Badghis province. At a function which was held on this occasion after recitation of some verses from Holy Quran, the authority of Badghis province talked about the national reconciliation policy. He welcomed the armed group to this policy. Representing his members, the ring leader of the group pledged their all round assistance for insuring peace and tranquility in the province. The armed group was equipped with two rocket launchers, two Doshaka, five heavy machine-guns and seventy light arms (News—English: 16 September, 1988).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On September 17, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy at Shrin Taghab. A tank, two tankers and two other

vehicles were destroyed. Three Afghan troops defected to the Mujahideen during the attack.

Radio Kabul: As a result of the internal crisis between the rival factions of the extremists in Faryab, Herat and Kapisa provinces at least fifty of them were killed and thirty others were injured. These clashes took place among the members of Jamiat and its supporters over the distribution of looted goods (News—English: 23 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: An armed enemy gang has been wiped out in north-western province of Faryab. Five members of the gang who used to commit cruelties against local population were killed (News—Urdu: 29 September, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: On September 1, Mujahideen launched a wide-spread offensive in Herat province partly aimed at relieving Soviet-Kabul pressure on Mujahideen in Qandahar province.

On September 2, Mujahideen occupied two security posts in Obek district. Twenty Kabul troops were killed.

On September 6, Mujahideen attacked targets in Herat city, including the cement factory. About fifty troops were killed and three tanks destroyed.

On September 12, Russian-made planes attacked villages around Herat, killing several civilians. Meanwhile, Herat lay under virtual siege of Mujahideen.

On September 18, two army jeeps were destroyed during an attack in Herat city.

VIRA: The Muslim Mujahideen attacked Military posts of the Communist troops in Hasarak area of Herat province on 7 September. Besides, inflicting heavy losses to the enemy troops, six out of eleven posts of the enemy were captured by the Mujahideen. In these operations fifteen government troops were killed and twenty others made captive by the Mujahideen. Two Mujahideen were martyred and three others injured (News—Pushto: 18 September, 1988).

The Mujahideen attacked the headquarters of Shindand Uluswali on September 7 causing losses in men and material to the enemy forces.

In retaliation, the enemy Air Force bombarded the civil population in the outskirts of Shindand and as a result 10 Mujahideen were injured.

Report adds that an enemy helicopter was also shot down by the Mujahideen (News—Persian: 23 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: BIA reports from Herat that another forty families consisting of three hundred fifty persons from Mirzai tribe headed by Mohammad Usman have returned home through Islam Qilla border and have settled at Shindand district of Herat province (News—English: 5 September, 1988).

We regret to announce that chief of the Council of Ulema and Spirituals of Herat province, Moulavi Nisar Ahmed Sahabzada was martyred by the extremists while offering prayers yesterday.

Bakhtar correspondent has reported that the late Sahabzada was laid to rest this evening (News—Pushto: 14 September, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On September 18, Mujahideen blasted a Kabul army ammunition depot at Karah, near the provincial headquarters of Farah city. During the rocket and missile attack several buildings in the neighbourhood were also destroyed and 18 troops killed. On the arrival of regime reinforcements, the guerillas moved back to the liberated area.

Radio Tehran: According to our news agency, the Afghan Mujahideen have liberated eleven posts from Afghan government forces during their operations in Farah province. They also killed 55 Afghan troops, destroyed 11 military vehicles and shot down a fighter plane (News—Persian: 6 September, 1988).

In Afghanistan, twenty-eight communist troops were killed during fighting between the Soviet-Kabul forces and Afghan Mujahideen in Pul-e-Sangi area of the Farah province. During this fighting Mujahideen also destroyed four tanks of the Soviet-Kabul forces (News—Urdu: 15 September, 1988).

BBC: The account of fighting given by Kabul government in the western province of Farah last week has been rejected by the local commander of a guerilla organization active in Afghanistan.

Radio Kabul reported yesterday that more than seventy guerillas were killed in these clashes.

But Ahmad Sadiqi of the Younus Khalis group of the Hizb-i-Islami said that his men killed eighty Soviet and Afghan government troops, whereas the guerilla casualties were six dead and nine wounded. He also claimed that the guerillas succeeded in shooting down one MiG-27 bomber and one helicopter (News—Urdu: 15 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: In another operation in Farah province, thirty-five bandits were killed and twenty-five others injured (13 Sept. 1988).

Central Provinces

Bamiyan

Mujahideen sources: On September 4, Mujahideen reported they had consolidated their occupation of Bamiyan: and 'Islamic Order' was operating in the entire province. Previously they had captured about 600 Kabul regime soldiers besides a large quantity of arms in the capital, Bamiyan city. On their side the Mujahideen lost forty freedom fighters.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have shot down ten fighter planes and helicopters of the Kabul regime during different operations in Bamiyan province. The Mujahideen also captured seven hundred troops of the Kabul regime besides one helicopter and a large number of weapons. Though there is no report about the number of casualties of the Soviet-Afghan troops yet two Generals of the Kabul regime were among the dead (4 September, 1988).

The three day joint congress of the Pasdaran-e-Jehad, the Nasar Organization has ended in Bamiyan province of Afghanistan.

The Congress adopted a resolution, condemning the Geneva Agreement. It says the Cordovez proposal for an impartial government in Afghanistan is another conspiracy of the world imperialism. The resolution supports the call of the seven parties Council in Iran to carry on the struggle until the fall of Kabul regime and setting up of an Islamic government in Afghanistan (News-Pushto: 28 Sept. 1988).

TASS: A commission of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan IPA was reported to have arrived from Peshawar for a visit to Hazarajat area to inspect its detachments and solve contentious issues between IPA's armed groups and representatives of Hazaras, the indigenous population of Bamiyan province (5 September, 1988).

Ghor

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim freedom fighters attacked a security post of the Kabul regime troops in the central city of Ghor province, Chaghcharan, inflicting heavy loss of life and material to the enemy (News-Urdu: 9 September, 1988).

Uruzgan

Mujahideen sources: On September 17, Kabul regime forces launched a sizeable attack on Mujahideen positions near Tarinkot, provincial headquarters. The attack was supported by armour and aircraft. A helicopter was downed during the fighting. Five Mujahideen were killed and thirty-one injured.

On September 21, Mujahideen captured Deh Raud district. Deh

Raud is about 110 km north of Qandahar. Helicopters flew out militiamen from the city.

On September 24, Mujahideen rockets hit an ammunition depot in Tarinkot, which had been under the siege of the Mujahideen since September 15. Russian-made planes bombed Mujahideen positions around Tarinkot. Twenty-two civilians were also killed.

BBC: Diplomatic sources say that the second biggest city of Garishk in the Hilmand province and Tarinkot, the capital of Uruzgan have been besieged by the guerillas. The Governor of Uruzgan is said to have been handed over to the guerillas by the local militiamen last weekend. He is said to have been captured by the militiamen when he visited the airport to assess the losses caused by rocket attacks of guerillas. Correspondents say that the Government is considering to evacuate its remaining troops from Uruzgan and to declare the province a neutral zone (Sairbeen-Urdu: 13 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The inhabitants of Tarinkot city, the capital of Uruzgan province, are courageously defending their city.

BIA's Military section correspondent reported this afternoon from Tarinkot city that a number of extremist groups firing heavy weapons have recently tried to disrupt peace and security and plunder people's property around Tarinkot city. For example, subversive extremist groups have bombarded Tarinkot city with over 15,000 rockets and mortar bombs from 29 August to 22 September, as a result of which 9 of our compatriots—including women and children and elders—were martyred and another 15 persons were injured.

The report adds that after convening tribal Jirgas Tarinkot's inhabitants recently decided that they are all going to arm themselves and defend their homes against the extremist's barbarous attacks and will thus discharge their patriotic role in restoring peace and calm in the country. For example, as a result of retaliatory blow inflicted by the city's inhabitants, 30 of the plundering extremists, including their ring leaders, were killed and dozens of their weapons were destroyed (Kabul Domestic Sources in Dari: 23 September, 1988).

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: On September 1, Mujahideen fired rockets on Kabul airport. Three aircrafts were believed to have been hit.

On September 2, two Soviet oil tankers were destroyed in Karabagh district. Three security posts were also overrun in the neighbourhood on the same day.

On September 4, Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops in Shakardara area. Forty troops and 200 weapons were captured from the security posts of Qila Dasht, Qila Sufaid and Qila Murad Baig.

On the night of September 4-5, Mujahideen conducted a devastating rocket attack on Kabul airport. An Aryana airlines plane, three army helicopters and two jet fighter-bombers were destroyed. Two army personnel carriers were also hit.

Also on September 5, Mujahideen intensified attacks on Kabul regime troops and establishments in Paghman district. Seven security posts were wiped out.

On September 7, Mujahideen frustrated a Soviet-Kabul offensive in the Paghman district. A number of tanks and other vehicles were destroyed.

On September 8, Mujahideen captured 4 security posts in Saroobi district.

On September 10, Mujahideen made fresh inroads into Mir Bachakot area, capturing some security posts.

On September 11, Mujahideen made further gains in Paghman district in the face of stiff Soviet-Kabul resistance.

On September 12, Mujahideen continued attacks in Saroobi district and Naghlu Dam area. Twenty-six troops, including six officers were killed and a number of rifles, mortars and rockets taken.

On September 12, Mujahideen exploded a bomb in a KHAD interrogation centre in Kabul city. Twelve persons were killed and thirty-two injured. Forty shops were also destroyed.

On September 14, Mujahideen repelled a Soviet-Kabul counter-attack in Paghman district. Atleast three Soviet-made tanks were destroyed.

On September 18, Khan Allah, 22, an Afghan cameraman covering the war was killed in Paghman. He belonged to one of the Mujahideen parties.

On September 21, Mujahideen entered Paghman city after eliminating the military posts of Kot Sitara, Balala Mala, Deh Koband, Mian Khel, and Bagh-e-Arbad. On the same day Mujahideen fired ten rounds of S-20 rockets on Kabul city. The targets were Presidential Palace, "Arg" and 'Chaman-i-Huzori' military area.

On September 22 and 23, Mujahideen attacked transport on the Kabul-Haratan Highway near Khairkhana.

On September 2, two Soviet oil tankers were destroyed in Qarabagh district. Three security posts were also overrun in the neighbourhood on the same day.

days. There are no details yet of casualties. But a Soviet official in Kabul is reported to have said that many people including Soviet soldiers were killed or wounded. The Soviet News Agency, TASS described the attack as a massive bombardment in which residential areas of Kabul were hit as well as the airport itself. George Arney has been gathering together the story in Islamabad in neighbouring Pakistan:

TASS gave few details beyond saying that storage facilities and transport aircraft were damaged in the attack and that the resulting fire was eventually put out. Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad provide a rather more detailed and graphic account. They say the attack began in the early afternoon with a salvo of rockets, one of which is reported to have hit a transport aircraft loaded with weapons and ammunition. That blew up. Sometime later, another rocket apparently hit a major ammunition depot triggering series of explosions which lasted for more than an hour and sent shock-waves through the whole area. Black smoke was seen rising hundreds of feet in the air. The diplomats do not have any details about casualties, but they believe that damage must have been severe. The airport was evacuated and closed down. Other parts of Kabul were also hit.

Diplomatic sources say that one rocket exploded close to the Presidential palace and another hit a residential complex housing ruling party officials. A third landed about four hundred yards from the American Embassy. The attacks demonstrate yet again that despite strenuous attempts to strengthen Kabul's defence, even its best guarded sector is vulnerable to guerilla operations. The airport was last closed down only five days ago after a barrage of about three dozen rockets damaged the main runway and several aircrafts. According to diplomatic sources, the Kabul regime estimates that the guerillas still have upto three thousand more rockets stored away in the Kabul area (News-Desk-English: 1 September, 1988).

The Soviet news agency TASS reports that fighting has once again broken out between the Kabul government troops and the Mujahideen in Paghman area of Kabul province. The agency says the government troops killed fifty guerillas and injured many others in the course of raids on their positions.

The agency adds that the Afghan security forces had launched the operation to wipe out the terrorists, who have subjected Kabul city to rocket attacks. The Kabul regime troops are also reported to have been involved in fighting the guerillas in other parts too, including Gardez and Kunduz.

Radio Pakistan has reported that the Mujahideen have captured the Khairkot military base in Paktika province (News-Pushto: 17

September, 1988).

AIR: Latest reports from Afghanistan say nine persons were killed and sixteen injured, many of them seriously, when Afghan rebels launched a series of missile attacks in the capital Kabul.

The airport and adjacent residential areas suffered a large scale damage. The rockets also triggered explosions at a nearby ammunition dump. In all forty-eight missiles were fired into the Afghan capital. One of the missiles exploded right in the middle of a school playground amongst children killing five and injuring eleven (News—English: 2 September, 1988).

Quoting PTI, the Hindustan Times says that the Afghan rebels yesterday launched a heavy rocket attack on the Kabul international airport and greatly damaged a cargo aircraft and some depots there.

The Soviet news agency TASS says that some missiles also exploded in the residential areas of Kabul. However, the TASS report said nothing about the loss of life.

On the other hand, quoting a Western diplomat in Islamabad, the Reuter reported that a big ammunition dump also exploded when it caught fire as a result of the attack.

Meanwhile, the UNI says that one person was killed and twenty-three others injured when four Afghan aircraft bombed four villages in district Charsadda in the Frontier province of Pakistan yesterday (Jahan Numa—Urdu: 2 September, 1988).

In Afghanistan thirty-five people were killed today and about one hundred and sixty injured in the capital Kabul in one of the fiercest rocket attacks by the rebels.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS reports that twenty rockets blasted into the centre and suburbs of the city.

The attacks lasted about an hour.

The city has been facing rocket attacks for the last two days. Some other towns of Afghanistan have also been under similar attacks during the past few days (News—English: 28 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that as a result of successful operations of the Armed Forces in the outskirts of Paghman Woleswali, forty-two extremists were killed and twenty-two others injured. An ammunition depot of the extremists was also destroyed (News—Pushto: 1 September, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that recently fierce armed clashes have taken place between the groups of Gulbadin band and the so-called Harkat-e-Inqilabi Islami in the outskirts of Mir Bachakot Woleswali. As a result of the clashes which took place due to mutual differences and distribution of looted goods, fifty-

six persons from both sides including two ring leaders of both groups, Abdul Qadir and Sadiq, and twenty-six others were seriously injured (News—Pushto: 1 September, 1988).

The criminal extremists today by using heavy weapons opened fire at the residential areas of Kabul city, martyring and injuring a number of innocent citizens of Kabul (News—Pushto: 1 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: On Thursday, armed groups of Afghan extremists again subjected the city of Kabul and Kabul airport to missile shelling. There were children among the people who died in the attack. More in a commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov:

Missile attacks on Kabul have grown particularly frequent of late. They take the lives of elderly people, women and children, and devastate their homes. The question arises as to who bears responsibility for all this. Obviously not only those who press the button on the missile launcher. I think no less responsible are those supplying weapons to the extremists, and in fact encouraging them to this kind of activity.

By the way, the missile attacks hit not only cities and villages in Afghanistan, they also hit the Geneva accords, to which the United States is one of the guarantors. These accords provide not only for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a measure implemented consistently and on time, but also another and no less important provision demands an end to any outside interference in Afghan affairs, Pakistani interference in the first place. Yet this is a point Washington prefers to hush up for some reason.

Over the past days, a State Department spokesman has repeatedly accused Moscow and Kabul of violating the agreements. Specifically his pronouncements mentioned the sending of Soviet aircraft to the city of Kunduz to help protect it from extremist attacks. However, if one were to show genuine concern about compliance with the Geneva accords, one would have to talk about those who have indeed been violating them by intruding into Afghan affairs and dispatching armed Pakistani groups to conduct terror acts against local residents.

Any international agreement is effective in as much as it is observed by all signatories. Meanwhile, as time goes by, Islamabad's disruptive stand on the Geneva accords is becoming increasingly evident. The flow of foreign weapons and armed extremist groups from Pakistan into Afghanistan, far from subsiding, has been gaining strength. Isn't it because of this that the number of armed attacks and missile shellings of Kabul and other cities has been on the rise?

Washington's role of a guarantor of the accords has been increasingly questionable. Last Wednesday the Washington Post correspondent in the Pakistani city of Peshawar reported the United States was dispatching the larger part of its weapon supplies from Pakistan directly to forces operating within Afghanistan (Moscow World Seminar in English: 2 September, 1988).

In Kabul province, fifty extremists were killed and another fifteen wounded as a result of Afghan army operations during the last two days. The Afghan Army continued operations against rebels yesterday near Gardez and Kunduz.

The elders of Mangal tribe held a Jirga in Gardez which was attended by a number of inhabitants of Paktia province. The participants of the Jirga denounced the criminal activities of the extremists and supported the national reconciliation policy (News-Urdu: 11 Sept. 1988).

TASS: Kabul September 20, the Afghan capital today again came under a rocket attack.

Die-hard opposition extremists fired six rockets on densely populated area in the city and one of the rockets hit a school.

According to preliminary data, nine persons were killed and four others wounded as a result of the barbarous attack (20 Sept. 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 30 August: Mujahideen attacked security posts around Charikar, capturing three of them.

Several Kabul regime soldiers defected to Mujahideen.

Mujahideen fired 107mm rockets at Bagram military airport hitting some helicopters and trucks. Kabul regime troops clashed with Mujahideen in Gulbahar Textile Mills area.

On September 8, Mujahideen eliminated two security posts near Charikar, tightening siege round the provincial headquarters. Other groups of Mujahideen attacked oil tankers near Pul-i-Siah and troops in Jablus Siraj area.

VIRA: Mujahideen have conducted a number of operations for capturing the provincial headquarters of Laghman and Parwan provinces. The reports say that the Mujahideen have inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Soviet and Kabul troops in these operations (News-Pushto: 9 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: BIA reports that recently a bloody clash took place between extremist groups in Parwan province. In this clash two extremist elements were killed and five others including Abdul Saeed, one of the ring leaders have been severely injured (News-English: 1 September, 1988).

In Parwan province, nine terrorists were killed and seventy others injured by the security forces in Zoarh Khar area (News-Pushto: 13 September, 1988).

Radio Moscow: An armed group of 100 people downed arms and went over to the side of the government in Herat province, BIA reported. A group of refugees returned to Parwan province. The necessary material aid was given to all of them.

A Jirga (assembly) of residents of Charikar, Parwan province, expressed support for peaceful efforts of the Afghan leadership and the national reconciliation policy. The Jirga adopted a message to the opposition armed groups calling on them to stop the fratricidal war. Participants in another Jirga, which was held in Mehterlam, the administrative centre of Laghman province, approved a resolution reading, inter alia, as follows: "The Geneva Accords are the sole way towards peace and all Afghans, whatever their affiliations, are obliged to observe them". Representatives of the tribes attending the Jirga committed to contribute to the return of refugees (3 September, 1988).

Kapisa

Nil report from all sources.

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: Between 600-700 followers of the regime henchman Sarwar Nuristani surrendered to Maulwi Guzin, an influential figure in Laghman. Guzin had previously sided with the regime, but has now shifted allegiance to Mujahideen. Sarwar's men brought in more than 15,000 weapons, two powerful radio communication sets and supplies. Meanwhile, Russian-made aeroplanes bombarded Mujahideen positions in Laghman from very high altitude.

Radio Kabul: A group of the extremists which yesterday wanted to destroy a bridge on Jalalabad-Kabul highway in Karaghi Wolesswali of Laghman province was wiped out by the Armed Forces. Bakhtar correspondent has reported from Mehterlam city that during the Armed Forces operations three saboteurs were killed and four others injured seriously (19 September, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: On September 6, Russian-made aircraft bombed the liberated township of Mohammad Agha. Two Mujahideen commanders, Sayed Wali and Haji Afridi were killed in Surkhab Do-bandi area.

On September 8, Russian-made aircraft bombed villages in the

vicinity of Pul-e-Alam, provincial headquarters.

On September 22, Mujahideen shelled targets in Pul-e-Alam. The city had been isolated from other parts of the country. Regime aircraft countered by attacking Mujahideen positions.

On September 23, two helicopters were downed over Pul-e-Alam. The helicopters were hit by stinger missiles.

On September 25, an ammunition dump was blasted near Pul-e-Alam.

VOA: In Afghanistan's Logar province just south of Kabul the Mujahideen have downed one Soviet-built fighter-bomber in heavy fighting around the provincial capital. VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad has more on that.

Mujahideen sources in the border city of Peshawar say the plane was shot down on September 14 during a major air raid on Mujahideen units attacking Pul-e-Alam, Logar's provincial capital. Other reports says that air attacks were conducted the next day on nearby villages killed six persons including two women. In the fighting near Pul-e-Alam, the Mujahideen say, they have captured three military posts. In the fighting at Range Khel, forty five government troops were killed or wounded. In a separate development at Mohammad Agha, midway between Kabul and Pul-e-Alam, unconfirmed reports say Soviet troops were involved in attacks in recent days that killed two Mujahideen and wounded one ten year old boy. In July the Mujahideen captured Mohammad Agha, about twenty kilometres south of Kabul on the main route to Gardez (Radio Report: 19 September, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The armed extremist groups which recently entered Pul-e-Alam, the provincial headquarters of Logar province to disturb the peaceful life of the local people, were wiped out by the Armed Forces yesterday.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the extremists by firing ground-to-ground missiles at the residential area of Pul-e-Alam, killed five persons and injured six others (25 September, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: On September 18, Russian-made aircraft bombed Abdara village in Syed Abad district. Five persons were killed and 16 injured.

On September 21, Mujahideen attacked security post of Qalai Now Sarai Regiment which provided protection to government transport on road between Katawaz and Ghazni.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below were the major Kabul Radio themes in September 1988, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Pakistan is violating Geneva Agreements by increased involvement in the internal affairs of Afghanistan (222 Times).
2. The Afghan people condemn the terrorist activities of counter-revolutionaries. Their activities are against Islam and they are shedding blood of Afghans for American dollar.
3. Zia's encouraged terrorism and his rule ended in disaster.
4. Reconciliation plan is peace programme and only way of ending bloodshed in Afghanistan.
5. Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media themes in September 1988, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Pakistan is violating the Geneva Agreements, and has stepped up interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan (224 Times).
2. Soviet-Kabul side strictly abides by all provisions of the Geneva Accords.
3. National Reconciliation Policy alone can restore peace in Afghanistan: the country and it has masses support.
4. USSR helps Afghans in reconstruction and restoration of peace.
5. India wants a strong Afghanistan and is playing a good role for the settlement of certain issues.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN SEPTEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	48 killed and	11 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	1644 killed and	570 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	253 killed and	63 wounded
Defections	:	3167 Kabul troops defected and	1071 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	262 killed and	220 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	336 killed and	232 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:

Aircraft	13	LMGs	84	Security posts	209
Helicopters	16	HMGs	102	Buildings	14
Tanks	131	Klashnikovs	2267	Airport Installations	2
APCs	59			Powerhouse	1
HMVs	130	Rocket		Food depot	5
Trucks	88	launchers	11	Ammunition depots	22
Jeeps	32	Doshaka	36	Fuel destroyed	80 tons
Oil Tankers	24	Rifles	1109	Shops	40
Wireless Sets	12	Mortars	63	Bridges	3
VCR Sets	140	Pistol	45	Barracks	7
Suitcase full of Money		Heavy weapons	41	Quantities of Arms, ammunitions	15
Boxes	40	Ammunition	40	Assorted Weapons	
Tractors	1				16450

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN SEPTEMBER 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses Inflicted to "Counter-revolutionaries"

Killed	984	and 792 wounded
Captured	37	
Returnees		
(i) Civilian Returnees	6092	(Those availing amnesty, voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).
(ii) Armed Men Surrendering	192	

Mujahideen Material Losses:

G-G missiles	109+725	rockets
Vehicles	2	
Doshaka	2	
Rocket Launchers	21	
Explosives	24 kg + 1 Truck with 1.5	tons explosives
Munition depots	23	
HMGs	15	
LMGs	13	
Bases/Hideouts	16	
Mortars	16	
Quantities of Arms and ammunition	6	
Recoilles guns	2	
Anti personnel Mines	340	
Anti vehicle Mines	170	
Assorted weapons	A large number	
Grenades	60 with 6	launchers

Losses Inflicted on Counter-Revolutionary Elements

Human Losses:	Killed	151
	Wounded	321

Material Losses

Vehicles	26
Shops	694
Mosques/Shrines	11
Houses	190
Schools	4
Government Buildings	31

Besides other unspecified material losses.

APPENDIX - 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	6	Zaranj	—	2
Hilmand	8	Lashkargarh	2	1
Qandahar	57	Qandahar	19	1
Zabul	10	Kalat Gilzai	3	1
Ghazni	10	Ghazni	4	1
Paktika	4	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	20	Gardez	5	1
Ningarhar	27	Jalalabad	5	1
Kunar	41	Chagha Sarai	2	2
Nooristan	9	Godwal	5	1
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	4	Faizabad	—	—
Takhar	14	Taloqan	1	4
Kunduz	13	Kunduz	6	6
Baghlan	30	Baghlan	4	4
Samangan	2	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	8	Mazar-e-Sharif	—	2
Jozjan	7	Shebergan	—	—
Sar-e-pul	9	Sar-e-Pul	3	—
Faryab	3	Maimana	—	—
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	13	Herat	2	3
Farah	8	Farah	1	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	*Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	1	Chaghcharan	1	—
Uruzgan	9	Tarin Kot	2	2
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	60	Kabul	13	1
Parwan	15	Charikar	2	3
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	—	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	48	Pul-e-Alam	4	5
Wardak	2	Kotelesro	—	—
TOTAL				
	438		84	46

APPENDIX - 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	4	—	2	6
Hilmand	2	5	1	—	8
Qandahar	14	31	7	5	57
Zabul	1	9	—	—	10
Ghazni	2	5	3	—	10
Paktika	1	4	—	—	5
Paktiya	5	11	4	—	20
Ningarhar	8	19	—	—	27
Kunar	7	15	10	9	41
Nooristan	3	3	3	—	9
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	4	—	—	4
Takhar	3	2	8	1	14
Kunduz	2	5	6	—	13
Baghlan	10	9	7	4	30
Samangan	—	2	—	—	2
Balkh	2	5	—	1	8
Jozjan	1	5	—	1	7
Sar-e-pul	1	5	—	3	9
Faryab	1	1	—	1	3
Badghis	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	3	5	5	—	13
Farah	1	5	1	1	8
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	1	—	—	1
Uruzgan	1	4	3	1	9
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	20	25	8	7	60
Parwan	8	6	—	1	15
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	—	—	—	—	—
Logar	7	16	15	10	48
Wardak	—	1	1	—	2
TOTAL:	103	206	82	47	438

APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN SEPTEMBER 1988 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Returnees numbers	Armed Men surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	2	4	25	—
Qandahar	8	8	1056	—
Zabul	1	1	—	—
Ghazni	1	1	11	—
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	7	4	—	—
Ningarhar	6	9	3376	—
Kunar	8	1	36	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	1	—	—
Takhar	3	—	—	—
Kunduz	10	1	398	—
Baghlan	—	5	—	—
Samangan	3	1	38	—
Balkh	2	—	—	—
Jozjan	—	1	—	—
Sar-e-pul	—	—	—	12
Faryab	1	1	—	—
Badghis	—	—	—	80
Bordering Iran				
Herat	3	1	389	100
Farah	—	—	22	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	1	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	1	15	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	18	15	700	—
Parwan	3	—	41	—
Kapisa	—	—	—	—
Laghman	1	2	—	—
Logar	2	4	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	80	77	6092	192

APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN SEPTEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses Destroyed/ Damaged	Date (1988)
		K	W		
Nimroz	Nimroz	3	—	—	11/9
Hilmand	Grishik	13	48	130	22/9
Qandahar	Arghandab	—	—	—	21/8
Qandahar	Spinbuldak	140	150	—	8/9
Ghazni	Rabat	10	—	36	15/9
Paktiya	Zarmat	2	4	—	25/9
Ningarhar	Jalalabad	—	—	—	23/9
Kunar	Shigal	2	—	—	8/9
Kunar	Asadabad	7	—	—	25/9
Takhar	Taloqan	11	47	36	12/10
Baghlan	Baghlan	15	—	—	3/9
Baghlan	Baghlan	10	—	—	27/8
Faryab	Shrin Taghab	2	7	4	17/9
Balkh	Mazar-e-Sharif	10	26	—	28/8
Herat	Herat	10	15	—	21/9
Uruzgan	Trinkot	22	—	—	16/9
	UruzganTrinkot	26	—	—	24/9
Kabul	Qarabagh	—	—	10	2/9
Kabul	Paghman	—	—	—	19/9
Kabul	Saroobi	—	—	—	8/9
Kabul	Paghman	12	18	—	18/9
Kabul	Chardeh	13	—	—	17/9
Parwan	Charikar	10	—	—	30/8
Logar	Pul-e-Alam	6	—	—	15/9
Logar	Mohammad Agha	—	1	—	6/9
Logar	Kolangar	7	—	10	22/9
Wardak	Syed Abad	5	16	10	18/9
Total: 27 incidents in 17 provinces		336	232	236	

Note: 125 heads of livestock were killed during the reporting month in Ghazni, Takhar, Uruzgan, Logar and Wardak provinces.

APPENDIX — 7

SOVIET-KABUL AIR LOSSES IN 1988
Month Wise Breakdown

Month	Helicopters	Aeroplanes	Total aircrafts
September	16	13	29
August	21	18	39
July	12	13	25
June	6	15	21
May	5	5	10
April	7	7	14
March	9	11	20
February	3	7	10
January	7	11	18
Total:	86	100	186

APPENDIX — 8

VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTAN TERRITORIES BY
SOVIET-KABUL ARTILLERY IN SEPTEMBER 1988

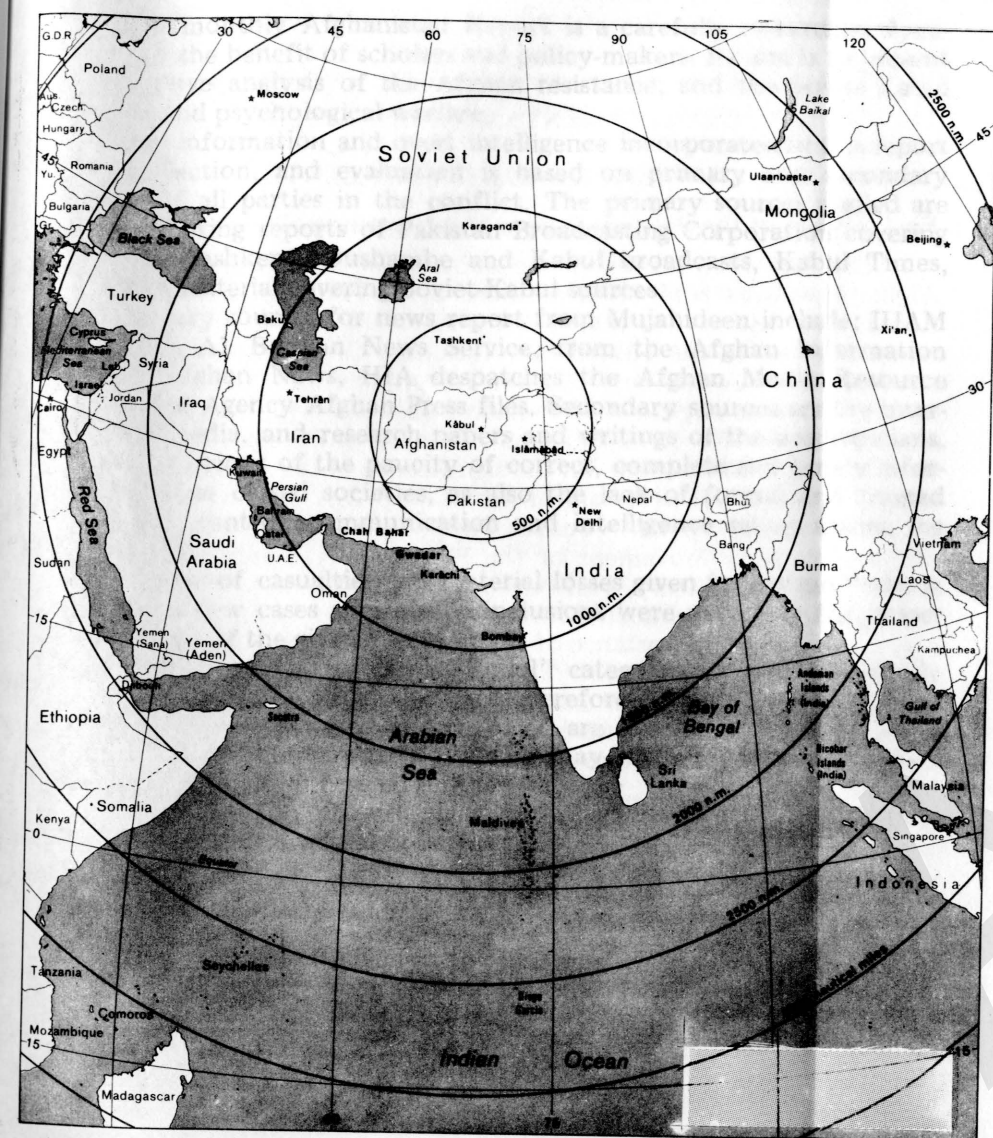
Date	Locations	Casualties		No. of Shells Fired	Source
		K	W		
8/9	Chaman	—	12	15	FP
Total	One Incident	—	12	15	—

APPENDIX — 9

VIOLATIONS OF PAKISTAN AIRSPACE BY SOVIET-KABUL
AIRCRAFT (SEPTEMBER 1988)

Date	Locations	No. of AC Intruded	No. of Bombs Dropped	Casualties		Source
				K	W	
2/9	Charsadda	5	2	1	24	MLM
6/9	Dir	8	8	2	10	FP
8/9	Bajaur	8	10	3	4	FP
9/9	Bajaur	4	—	—	—	FP
9/9	Chaman	6	3	6	—	NTN
13/9	Bajaur	6	—	—	—	NTN
24/9	Dir	16	8	5	5	FP
27/9	Parachinar	14	6	6	13	FP
Total:	8 Incidents	67	37	23	56	

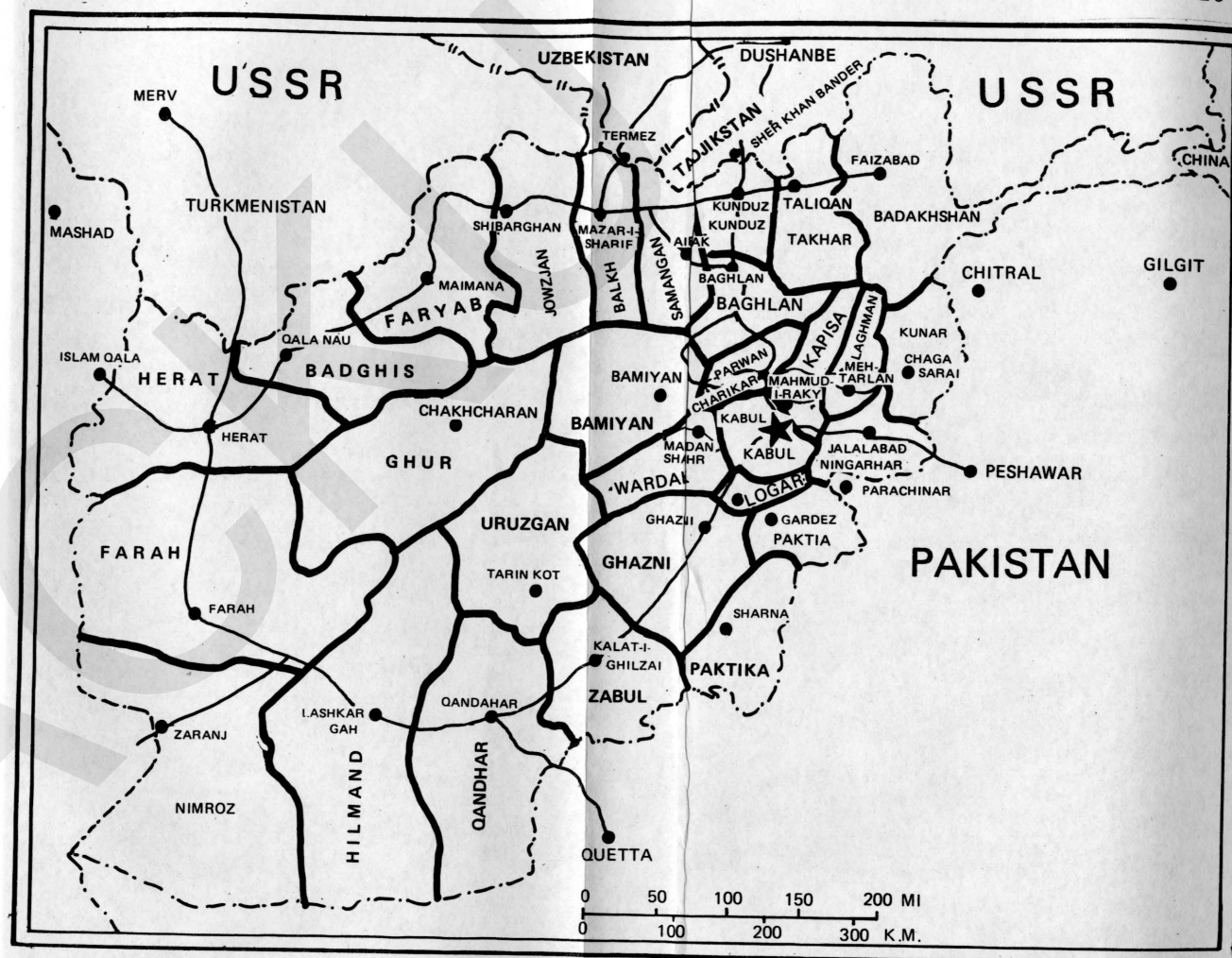
APPENDIX - 10 A



APPENDIX - 10

MAPS

APPENDIX - 10 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during September 1988 in 27 provinces. Provinces from where no war reported received are: Badghis, Bamiyan, Kapisa and Laghman.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during September 1988 in 22 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received are: Nimruz, Paktika, Nuristan, Sar-e-Pul, Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Kapisa and Wardak.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, Al Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during September 1-30, 1988. Appendices 1-10 also incorporate August, 1988 incidents reported in September, 1988.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

First Session of the Political Parties of Afghanistan Held

The first open session of the political parties and organizations of Afghanistan was held on September 3, in Presidential headquarters Kabul. The session was attended by President Najibullah, leaders and representatives of the Toiler's Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan (SAZA), Toiler Organization of Afghanistan (SZA), People's Islamic Party of Afghanistan, Peasant's Justice Party, Solidarity Movement of the People of Afghanistan (Fedaian) and Itehadya Ansarullah. President Najibullah spoke on the significance of the session. Mahboobullah Kushani, First Secretary of the CC of SAZA, Abdul Sattar Seerat, Chairman of the Peasant's Justice Party, Sarwar Nooristani, Chairman of the Solidarity Movement of the People of Afghanistan (Fedaian), Saleh Mohammad Zeary, Politburo member and Secretary of the PDPA CC and Safar Mohammad Khadim Chairman of Itehadya Ansarullah also spoke on the importance of the first session of the country's political parties and organizations. The speakers described the convening of the session as fruitful in maintaining the unity and oneness of the political parties and organizations for the implementation of the National Reconciliation and cessation of the fratricidal war. They also pledged cooperation for the realization of the humanitarian and Islamic policy of national accord. Leaders of the political parties and organizations also presented proposals for improving the situation in the country and implementation of the peace policy (Kabul Times, 3 September).

Najib's Address to the First Session

Given below are excerpts from the speech of President Najibullah delivered at the first open session of the left-democratic parties in Kabul. Stressing upon the formation of a coalition, Najib said that "Certain steps have been taken in this regard. We should clearly state that we have established coalition at village, district and province level. Sufficient data is available in this respect. We have, however, not carried out enough work for the attraction of the representatives of the so-called major opposition, i.e., representatives, mainly living inside the country and abroad. In this direction we should change our approach and should not be satisfied with a passive approach to provide us satisfaction. I mean, sending of letters and keeping vacant posts for various

opposition leaders. We should take steps towards conducting clear and broad negotiations. We should sit around a negotiating table. All these new forms of a coalition character showed the capacity for survival recently. For instance, we saw it in developments in Qalat, Jalalabad, Ghazni and Qandahar. We should not forget that the existence of this new structure is just not enough. The decisive role is played by individuals who lay down their lives and show their capability in mobilizing inhabitants of the localities for the defence of their homeland.

All these shortcomings and handicaps clearly stood out in Kunduz. These assessments are not new. We are in dire need of experienced cadres. Complete unity and cohesion is a must for real self-defence. We possess large military units. We also have ammunition and combat tactics, and we are able to carry out any complicated task. Cleaning Kunduz of extremists has proved it. Now we are resolved to assess the defence capability and combat preparedness of every province. We should take steps towards the formation of committed detachments, and for the establishment of headquarters and military units in provinces which are not only able to defend their respective regions, but in case of need be offensive as well.

We should not forget our main and strategic objective, i.e., the policy of national reconciliation. If they impose war on us we should impose the policy of national reconciliation on them and there are vast possibilities we have not used yet.

Now it is necessary to consider the policy of national reconciliation as a three stage and three fold process. Above all we should struggle for a ceasefire and utilize every possibility for enforcing it. If we cannot achieve ceasefire throughout the country, let ceasefire be established in one village, district or a province.

The second factor is that of expansion of contacts with the opposition. First of all with, the second rank opposition, that, those who live inside the country and are engaged in war. Apart from the measures taken in the past we are now drafting a special programme at the Presidential office and will take further steps for contacting leaders of opposition groups. We claim that we are moving towards reconciliation, and we claim that we are establishing coalition but, in practice, we have not given up a single province so far.

The third factor that we should lay stress on is the factor of unity and cohesion of all national and patriotic forces. We will set forth numerous proposals in the months of September and October for conducting negotiations and taking other measures for achieving national unity. I am convinced that every political party and collective by the entire democratic front will actively participate in all these activities.

Let us recall history. What has assisted Gulbaddin and other blood-thirsty extremists, who have now become united and changed into a force which brings nothing but death and destruction. I should tell you

that confusion and lack of unity in the democratic movement of the country, struggle between different parties and groups in Afghanistan, claiming of monopoly of political power by one party, attempt of imperialism and reactionary forces for the implementation of their heinous plans has helped the process. The PDPA was the first party that endeavored to learn these bitter lessons and bring about principle transformations not only in tactics but also in strategy as has become clear now.

Taking into account past experiences, it seems necessary that we should get out of holding party sessions, go to the people and convey to them the essence of national reconciliation and cessation of armed hostilities.

Nowadays, the prestige of each party in society depends on objective possibilities and its contribution in tackling political, economic and defence tasks. We are witness to the fact that the share of all the parties is not equal. That is why their standing is different in our society. We should not get angry if we talk more of a particular party, which works more. Such a reality does exist. Any party which works more, of course makes more mistakes. Today we want more work and effort. The people are tired of hollow talk and vague promises.

I think in the foreign political activities, the attention of all parties be directed in the following areas:

- Implementation of Geneva Agreements.
- Relations with neighbouring countries.
- Relations with the Islamic World.
- Consolidation and development of relations with the Soviet Union.

Friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union constitutes the basis of our foreign policy. None of the truly national political parties can ignore this basic fact. It is necessary to follow persistently and reasonably the thesis that the Afghan-Soviet cooperation is a historic and objective need and the necessary condition of the independence and neutrality of Afghanistan (Kabul Times, 4 September).

Prime Minister Sharq's Visit to Soviet Union

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister of the RA, leading a high ranking delegation, on September 18, left Kabul for Moscow, at the invitation of the government of the Soviet Union. The high ranking delegation accompanying Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq comprises Sayyed Amanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Nematullah Pazhwak, Minister without portfolio, Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Minister of Commerce, Sultan Hussain Minister of Planning, Abdul Ghaffar Farahi, Minister of Repatriates, Mohammad Asif Zahir, Minister of Development and Rehabilitation, and Mohammad Sharif Karim Zada, Chief of Protocol Department, of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Kabul Times: 19 September, 1988).

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister of the RA, met in Kremlin on September 20, with Mikhail Gorbachev. They spoke on the developments in Afghanistan and the policies followed by its leadership both before and after the April Revolution. Mikhail Gorbachev and the Afghan Prime Minister noted that possibilities are available to pursue the NR policy more energetically under current external circumstances and inspite of the embittered stance of extremist forces (Kabul Times: 21 September, 1988).

Mikhail Gorbachev in his meeting with Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, said that "the visit of the Prime Minister of the RA to the Soviet Union is taking place at a time when the process of a political settlement in Afghanistan has entered a crucial and decisive phase". Mikhail Gorbachev spoke highly of Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq consent to lead the government of Afghanistan at a moment when the destiny of his people and his country is being decided. The conclusions and opinions turned out similar and concurrent on many points. On behalf of influential circles which have for many years been involved together with him in the progressive patriotic movement, Mohammad Hassan Sharq expressed their long-standing and firm conviction that a normal development of their country is unthinkable without friendly equitable and mutually advantageous relations with the Soviet Union. The Afghan Prime Minister and Mikhail Gorbachev noted that the possibilities are available to pursue the NR policy more energetically under current external circumstances and inspite of the embittered stance of extremist forces. The interlocutors agreed that the most important conditions for the policy's success are as follows:

"A strengthened state leadership in the country and in its armed forces and a consistent steering of the course of forming a broad-based coalition taking in all political streams, capable of relying on the whole of society and organized by the people. The place and role of the PDPA in this process depend on its constructiveness—factor which is needed in the new conditions, with regard to the new nature of the system of power that will shape in the course of the political settlement" (Kabul Times: 22 September, 1988).

The Afghan delegation is fully satisfied with the results of the visit to the Soviet Union and the exchange of views with Mikhail Gorbachev, said Dr. Sharq, Prime Minister of the RA, at a press conference held in Moscow on September 20. The meeting with the Soviet leader was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, he emphasized. The wide ranging talks with Nikolai Ryzhkov, have convinced us once again that the Soviet friends proceed along the road of broadening traditional cooperation and assistance to Afghanistan in the new historical conditions, the Prime Minister said. The historic document signed today (September 20), a long-term programme for economic, technical and trade cooperation between the Soviet Union and the RA for the

period ending in the year 2000, reflects the Soviet government's pledge to render considerable assistance to Afghanistan in rehabilitating its economy (Kabul Times: 21 September, 1988).

Wakil's Visit to India and Cyprus

The Afghan Foreign Minister at the head of a delegation, left Kabul for New Delhi and Nicosia on September 1. According to a report Abdul Wakil met his Indian counter-part Narasimha Rao on September 1. During the meeting Abdul Wakil apprised the Indian side of the recent developments in the country and process of the implementation of the Geneva accords. Bilateral relations were also discussed at the talks (Radio Kabul: 1 September, 1988).

The Afghan Foreign Minister, called on the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on September 3. During the meeting, Abdul Wakil delivered a message from the Afghan President Najibullah to Rajiv Gandhi. Abdul Wakil briefed Rajiv Gandhi on the latest developments in Afghanistan, process of implementation of the Geneva accords and measures of the Afghan government for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan and maintenance of peace. The two sides also discussed regional and international issues and stressed on strengthening the present traditional friendly relations between the two countries (Radio Kabul: 3 September, 1988).

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, addressed the conference of Foreign Ministers of NAM, held in Nicosia on September 9. He emphasized that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union observe the Geneva agreements and fulfill all their obligations in this regard. Mr. Wakil, however, stressed that interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan does not only continue, but is also gaining broader dimensions. And in the course of four months after the enactments of Geneva agreements, the undeclared war against the RA has been intensified (Kabul Times: 21 Sept. 88).

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil, who is presently in Cyprus for taking part in the NAM Foreign Ministers conference, has held separate meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Malta, Uganda, Cyprus, Cuba and the Arab Republic of Yemen. He also met the Secretary General of the PLO, Farooq Qadoumi. Wakil briefed these leaders on measures taken by the Afghan government to implement the Geneva agreement and also about the violations of the accord by Pakistan. Matters relating to bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues were also reviewed at these meetings (Radio Kabul: 9 September, 1988).

The Afghan Foreign Minister, met the special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Diego Cordovez. He briefed him about the measures taken by Afghan government to implement the Geneva agreements. He urged that Pakistan should be pressurized to honour its commitments made under the Geneva agreements. The Afghan Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of his proposal for a Foreign Minister's level

meeting between the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States (Radio Kabul: 7 September, 1988).

Kabul Regime Proposes a Meeting of Geneva Signatories

The Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has sent the following message to the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar:

"His Excellency is aware that the Afghan government has accomplished and fulfilled its all commitments and obligations sincerely and faithfully towards the Geneva accords. But the Pakistan side has not taken any step for the implementation of the Geneva accords, rather it has stepped up its interventions. The Afghan government in a series of statements and declarations have made such complaints about the violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. His Excellency the UN Secretary General the Republic of Afghanistan with the hope that the present leadership of Pakistan upon realizing the present positive conditions will take constructive measures for the complete implementation of the Geneva accords, as well as improvement of relations with the RA by stopping interference in the internal affairs of our country. The Afghan government proposes a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States, with your participation. We are confident that the holding of this meeting under you on the implementation of the Geneva Accords, will also help to create an atmosphere of understanding among the signatories of the Accords. Similarly, separate letters have been sent to the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, Pakistan and the United States in this connection" (Radio Kabul: 31 August, 88).

A spokesman for the UN Secretary General has said that the Secretary General is considering the letter sent to him by the Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil. In his letter, the Afghan Foreign Minister has proposed a Foreign Ministers' level meeting between the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States, to be held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General for discussing problems of the implementation of Geneva agreements (Radio Moscow: 2 Sept. 1988).

Pakistan has rejected the proposal made by Afghanistan earlier this week for a meeting of their Foreign Ministers together with those of the United States and Soviet Union to discuss violations of the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan. A Foreign Ministry official in Islamabad said United Nations observers were already in place to deal with violations of the agreement. He said the Afghan proposal appeared to be no more than a propaganda move (BBC, 3 September, 1988).

The United States has rejected a proposal by the Soviet Union holding a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the countries which signed a peace agreement on Afghanistan in April last. The US State Department spokeswoman, Mrs. Felis Oakley said: We don't see the need for such a meeting. Obviously Afghanistan would be a subject for

discussion at the UNGA and as has been in the last eight years a resolution on Afghanistan would be tabled in the General Assembly wherein we think, it would be stressed that the Afghan people would be given the right of exercising their right of self-determination and establishing a government with broad representation and that the Afghan people would return home in safety and honour (VOA: 27 Sept. 1988).

Cordovez Peace Plan: Najib's Rejection

The UN Special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Diego Cordovez says he has prepared a list of thirty neutral persons who can assist in calling Loya Jirga in Afghanistan which may form a new representative government there after the completion of Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan. He was addressing a press conference in New York.

BBC correspondent reports that Mr. Cordovez criticised that no efforts have been made to take advantage from the opportunity provided by the Geneva Agreements for the establishment of peace. He said all support the holding of Loya Jirga but the problem is how to call it. He said for this purpose, he has prepared a list of neutral people acceptable to most of the parties. He said the Loya Jirga should be called on first of March next year but before this an interim government comprising these thirty persons should be formed to arrange the Loya Jirga. If the Kabul government is not prepared to hand over government to them, then it should itself appoint people trusted for calling Loya Jirga.

Earlier, Mr. Cordovez had proposed a ceasefire in Afghanistan from first September and formation of an interim government. It could not be implemented and his new proposal will also not be acceptable to many parties. He says guerilla commanders active inside Afghanistan support the proposal of holding of a Loya Jirga but fundamentalist organizations are opposing it (BBC: 16 September, 1988).

In an exclusive interview, the Hindustan Times correspondent, Rajinder Sarine reports from Kabul that Afghan President Dr. Najibullah has rejected the proposal of a neutral interim government in place of present Kabul administration, as such as regime will not prove to be a strong one. He said if present armed forces of Afghanistan were dissolved, Afghanistan will become another Lebanon. In a detailed interview Dr. Najibullah also said the return of the situation prevailing in Afghanistan ten years ago was not practicable as the entire Afghan society had been divided into two groups and no body was now neutral. Thus in the opinion of Dr. Najibullah now a broadbased government could be established in Afghanistan represented by all the groups which believe in peace and country's solidarity (AIR: 26 September, 1988).

Troops Withdrawal Not Suspended, Cordovez

The UN Secretary General special representative on Afghanistan, Mr. Diego Cordovez announced that the Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva agreements.

Speaking in New York he rejected the statements that the Soviet Union has either suspended or postponed the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan in view of the endless violations of Geneva agreements from Pakistani side (Radio Moscow: 29 September, 1988).

National Reconciliation Commission Abolished

The Presidium of the High Commission for NR met on September 7 in Presidential office Kabul under the chairmanship of Abdul Rahim Hatif. The session assessed report of the secretariat of the commission regarding the present work procedures of different NR commissions of the R.A. A proposal of the secretariat on merger of the NR commission with the National Front Council at village and locality level was approved at the session. This is aimed at improving NR procedures and realisation of its general objectives under National Assembly and a broad based coalition government (Kabul Times: 8 September, 1988).

The Afghan government has abolished the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC), it set up twenty months ago, in an attempt to integrate the opposition forces in the country's Communist society. Observers see the move as marking the final failure of this policy. The state media announcing the step said the effort would be continued at local level by the National Front, an organisation linking the communists with various other groups (VOG: 3 September, 1988).

Mujahideen Reject Cordovez Peace Plan

The leader of the Hazb-e-Islami Afghanistan, Gulbadin Hikmatyar said on September 16, in Peshawar that the time has gone for holding a Loya Jirga in Afghanistan and the Afghan problem will very soon be settled with the formation of an Islamic Government in that country. He stressed the continuation of armed struggle till the establishment of an Islamic system in Afghanistan. He said that the Afghan Mujahideen and their commanders have informed them about their opposition to the holding of a Loya Jirga (Radio Tehran: 18 September, 1988).

Afghan Mujahideen leaders have criticised the proposal of the UN mediator that a traditional Jirga be convened to decide the future of Afghanistan. The leader of interim government of Mujahideen, Ahmed Shah says that the plan of UN Envoy, Diego Cordovez tantamounts to interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Another Mujahideen leader, Gulbadin Hikmatyar has accused the World Body of trying to form an impracticable government in Afghanistan.

Mr. Cordovez said last week that Afghan people are not taking advantage from the opportunity of restoring peace in Afghanistan for solving its problems. He says that he has prepared a list of thirty Afghans living in Afghanistan and abroad who may form an interim government (VOA: 19 September, 1988).

The three day joint congress of the Pasdaran-e-Jehad-e-Afghanistan

and the Nasar Organisation has ended in Bamiyan province of Afghanistan. The congress adopted a resolution, condemning the Geneva accords. It says the Cordovez proposal is for the world imperialism. The resolution supports the call of the seven parties council in Iran to carry on the struggle until the fall of Kabul regime and setting up an Islamic government in Afghanistan (Radio Tehran: 28 September, 1988).

Mujahideen Will Not Negotiate with the Regime

The spokesman of the seven party alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen has rejected the U.S. proposal of direct talks with the Kabul regime. He said how the Muslim strugglers of Afghanistan can hold talks with regime which has martyred more than 13,00,000 Afghans. He added that Kabul regime has weakened due to the successful Mujahideen's offensives and the Afghan Mujahideen would never hold any kind of negotiations with the Kabul regime (Radio Tehran: 2 September).

Seven party alliance of Afghan Mujahideen by issuing a statement in Peshawar has warned those people who claims to be representatives of Afghan nation. The statement says the seven party alliance has come to know that some unknown elements who claim to be representatives of Afghan Mujahideen, refugees and the Afghan nation, have recently made an unsuccessful attempt to sit at table of talks on behalf of the nation. The statement adds that such elements are in no way representatives of Afghan Mujahideen and their opinion is not the opinion of the majority of Afghan nation. The statement says that all such efforts being made without the consent and approval of seven party alliance will be strongly resisted by Afghan Mujahideen (Radio Tehran: 29 September, 1988).

2 — SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Agreements Signed

Afghan-Soviet documents were signed in the Kremlin, a long-term programme for economic, technological and commercial cooperation between the RA and the USSR till the year 2000. It includes an agreement of economic and technological cooperation in performing priority jobs covered by the programme and a protocol on the training of Afghan nationals at higher and specialized secondary schools in the Soviet Union in 1989-93. The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq and from the Soviet side by Nikolaie Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Also an agreement on economic and technological cooperation included to the above protocol was signed between Sultan Hussain, Minister of Planning of the Republic of Afghanistan and Konstantin Katushev, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR. According to another report an agreement on training the Afghan

students at higher and specialised secondary schools in the Soviet Union in 1989-93, was signed by Nematullah Pazhwak, Minister without Portfolio of the government of the RA and Gennady Yagodin, President of the State Committee for Education of the USSR, (Kabul Times: 22 September 1988).

Negotiations are underway in New Delhi, between representatives of the Federation of Indian Trade and Industries Chambers and a delegation of Afghanistan's Federation of Trade and Industries Chambers for the expansion of trade and economic relations between the two countries. In the course of the negotiations the two sides signed an agreement, providing for a rise in trade between the two countries, and also development of cooperation in the light and handicraft industry.

Possibilities of joint ventures are also being studied. The members of the Afghan delegation visited industrial projects in the Indian Capital and a number of states of the country. The two sides outlined about 170 projects that could be built in Afghanistan with Soviet and Indian economic assistance. Among them are small enterprises to put out medicine, tanneries and other enterprises (Kabul Times: 11 September).

New Projects Approved

Permanent commission of the Council of Ministers has approved domestic and foreign investments in twelve new projects. They are as follows:

1. *Shafaq Plastic Project*: This project is being set up in the industrial estate of Kabul with an initial capital of 15,000,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 30,000,000 Afghanis. The factory will produce annually 300,000 pairs of plastic footwear.
2. *Aryan Transport Enterprise*: This enterprise will be established in Sheberghan city with an initial capital of 12,000,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 30,000,000 Afghanis. The enterprise will annually transport 3,906 persons and 1.5 thousand tons of cargo.
3. *Yera Sheeq Carpet Weaving Ltd.*: This limited company will be opened in Andkhoy district with an initial capital of 162,000,000 Afghanis, and a working capital of 21,800,000 Afghanis. It will annually produce 400 square metres of silk and 3,600 square metres of woollen carpets, and will repair about 40,000 carpets.
4. *Gharzai Carpet Weaving Ltd.*: This will be set up in Kabul with an initial capital of 9,800,000 Afghanis and working capital 12,800,000 Afghanis. It will produce 500 square metres of silk and 2,200 square metres of woollen carpets.
5. *Bhadur Qanawizi Silk Ltd.*: This project will be established with an initial capital of 5,400,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 8,400,000 Afghanis in Herat. It will produce 7,400 turbans, embroidered cloth for men and women, 540 kerchiefs

and 360 kgs of thread.

6. *Rahmat Garments Ltd*: This limited corporation will be set up with an initial capital of 20,000,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 50,000,000 Afghanis in the industrial estate of the capital. It will have a capacity of producing 3.33 million underwear and 1.66 million towels per annum.
7. *Wahid Metal Works*: This project will be set up with an initial capital of 5,500,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 11,500,000 Afghanis in Mazar-i-Sharif. It will manufacture 1,500 beds, 2,000 metres of metal handrail and 500 metal safes annually.
8. *Bost Construction Unit*: This unit is to be established with an initial capital of 12,600,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 15,600,000 Afghanis in Hilmand. It will build 15,000 c.m. of area.
9. *Bedil Construction Unit*: This unit will be set up with an initial capital of 20,000,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 40,000,000 Afghanis in Herat. Its annual capacity is 30,000 cm.
10. *Watanyar Construction Unit*: It will be opened in Parwan province with an initial capital of 20,000,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 40,000,000 Afghanis. The annual capacity of the unit is to construct 30,000 c.m.
11. *Warasta Publishers*: It will be set up with an initial capital of 7,840,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 9,840,000 Afghanis in Kabul. It will produce ten million prints.
12. *Industrial Printing House*: It will be opened in the capital with an initial capital of 8,230,000 Afghanis and a working capital of 10,230,000 Afghanis. It will produce 10 million prints in a year (Kabul Times: 11 September, 1988).

The permanent commission of the Council of Ministers for domestic and foreign investment approved, in its session of 12th September, eleven projects proposed by national entrepreneurs. It will chaired by Sayed Amanuddin Amin, First Deputy Prime Minister. With a total initial capital of 751 million Afghanis and a final capital of 1,840 million Afghanis, the projects are to be set up in Qandahar, Herat, Hilmand, Sar-e-Pul, Ningarhar and Kabul provinces in the areas of chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, cattle-breeding, agriculture, construction and foodstuffs (Kabul Times: 15 September, 1988).

Food Shortage in Kabul

Diplomats based in Pakistan, say that Kabul residents are facing shortage of basic food such as meat, flour and sugar. The diplomats say the Mujahideen are stepping up attacks on government convoys, North and East of the capital. They also say that first snow has fallen along the Salang Highway, the main road North of Kabul (VOA: 27 September, 1988).

Social

President Najibullah on September 7, attended an extraordinary session of the Presidential High Islamic Consultative Council to discuss preparations for an International Islamic gathering to be convened shortly to hail the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him). The President noted: Proposed by the country's religious scholars and the Presidential High Islamic Consultative Council, the international Islamic gathering, an important achievement of national reconciliation, is being held shortly to welcome the auspicious birth anniversary of Hazrat-e-Mohammad Mustafa (Peace be upon him). This should be arranged in a befitting manner. The President also noted the constructive and valuable role the gathering would play in the implementation of national reconciliation and enlisting the cooperation of Islamic dignitaries in serving peace and the sacred religion of Islam (Kabul Times: 8 September, 1988).

The international seminar on realization of the Geneva Accords was inaugurated in a function held on September 25, in Delhi. Abdul Rahim Hatif, Vice President and Chairman of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan who is leading the Afghan delegation in the seminar, delivered a speech at the inaugural session. In his speech Abdul Rahim Hatif expressed his gratitude for the holding of this seminar sponsored by the Central Department for the Regional Affairs of India and invitation extended to the Afghan delegation to participate in this seminar. He explained the positive stand of the government and state of the RA towards the Geneva Accords. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India in a speech made in this seminar said that if the sides which signed the Geneva agreements observe the above documents, peace and tranquility will be ensured around Afghanistan (Kabul Times: 27 September, 1988).

Ermacora Visit Afghanistan

Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, Professor Flex Ermacora, who had recently paid a visit to Kabul at the head of a delegation left for Geneva on September 19. During his ten days stay in Kabul Ermacora met and held talks with President Najibullah, Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Sharq and Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil (Radio Kabul: 19 September, 1988).

Youth Join Armed Forces

The 8th batch of general military training course of the DYOA was graduated from airforce and air-defence university. In the military course which continued for 15 days, 150 youth received military training (Kabul Times: 19 September, 1988).

389 youth of Badakhshan province joined the armed forces in



August-September 1988. Since the beginning of the current year, 1,900 youth have been introduced through military commissariat of the province to the various units and detachments for ensuring peace and the realization of National Reconciliation Policy (Kabul Times: 19 September, 1988).

3 — REPATRIATION AND RE-CONSTRUCTION

Re-construction

The United Nations say it has so far been promised only a friction of the money needed for its programme to rebuild Afghanistan and enables million of refugees to return. The programme coordinator, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan said, donor countries have pledged eight per cent of the funds required. They have offered only about 97 million dollars towards the target of more than eleven hundred million. In a report issued in Geneva, he said it would be tragic if the Afghan people are given the hope of peace but are denied the help needed to rebuild their lives (BBC: 22 September, 1988).

Japan will provide sixty million dollars as aid for the Afghan Refugees. The Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations said that the amount would be provided to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and a number of other UN Agencies dealing with the Afghan Refugees. He added that his country will also consider the UN call for an emergency assistance to Afghanistan (BBC: 29 September, 1988).

Rehabilitation

The Soviet troops have removed mines from 1,518 fields since May, when withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan began. This was reported by correspondent of the Novesty press agency in Kabul. The removal of mines has been witnessed by newsmen from the United States, West Germany and Britain. 314 minefields have been passed over to the Afghan troops. They are located close to the galla posts and economic facilities and the places where the armed opposition usually attacks. Some 24,800 mines planted by the rebels were removed by Soviet soldiers since August 30 (Radio Moscow: 4 September, 1988).

A team of experts has arrived in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, under the auspices of the United Nations to help Afghanistan refugees, clear landmines scattered throughout the frontier region of Afghanistan. Clearing the way will be difficult the expert say, because Soviet troops failed to leave behind maps of the mine fields when they withdrew (VOG: 1 September, 1988).